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Mr. Chamber's from the Author

MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL REFORM

PROPOSED, FROM

A REVIEW

OF THE

HEALING ART,

THROUGHOUT EUROPE,

PARTICULARLY GREAT BRITAIN.

WITH CONSIDERATIONS ON

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES,

POOR-HOUSES, AND PRISONS;

OBSERVATIONS ON

The Apothecaries late Application to Parliament;

AND PROPOSALS FOR

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE REGULATIONS.

INCLUDING HINTS FOR IMPROVING

The Healing and Veterinary Arts.

By T. CHAMPNEY,

MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION OF SURGEONS;
SURGEON TO THE POULTRY, NEW, AND LUDGATE COUNTERS;
FELLOW OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY; THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY;
THE LYCEUM MEDICUM LONDINENSE;
MEDICAL ASSISTANT OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY;
AND PRACTITIONER OF SURGERY, PHARMACY,
AND MIDWIFERY IN LONDON.

"Ours is the most noble of all arts."

L O N D O N,

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ENTERED AT STATIONER'S HALL,

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P R E F A C E.

IT may be proper to observe, to such who are not already acquainted, that about two years since, a meeting was called, by public advertisement, at the Crown and Anchor, of the apothecaries in London, to consider on the best method of obtaining from the druggists the making up of prescriptions, retailing of medicines, &c.

The correspondence which the gentlemen, calling the meeting, had carried on with practitioners in the country, &c. was read, and it being agreed that the measure was both just and necessary, an association was formed; those who chose subscribed a guinea, and a committee were appointed for carrying the plan into effect. Having long before been convinced of the degraded situation of the apothecary, and having maturely considered the modes of procuring redress, though I had no concern in calling the meeting, I should have had no objection to have given any assistance in my power; but from the complexion of the business that evening, I was fully satisfied no good would result from the institution, and therefore declined being elected one of the committee.

The first meeting having been ill-conducted, a second was called: this, which ought to have been

for the committee to make their report, submit their future intentions, and collect the opinion of every one present, on the means to be pursued; and chiefly to ascertain whether negotiation with the druggists, conducted in a liberal and temperate way, or application to parliament, would be best suited to answer the ends proposed, and to collect further subscriptions; was, like the former meeting, spent in idle and intemperate declamation, not calculated to obtain the general opinion of the meeting on the plan best to pursue, or to forward the views of the institution; but rather to excite opposition from the chemists and druggists, and others; who, accordingly, formed a subscription to oppose the apothecaries.

The following printed letter, which I lay before the reader without comment, having been sent me, I wrote eleven pages to the committee; recommending an attempt at negotiation with the wholesale druggists, before any application should be made to parliament; and if that should not succeed, then to print their views in applying for an act, for the approbation or correction of all the town and country subscribers; that the application might be made such as the legislature could approve, and likely to benefit both the profession and the public; but intemperate conduct obtaining in the committee, the secretary, who had then the chief controul, was so averse to receive information from a subscriber, though only submitted for consideration, that he would not even hear my letter read.

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Though the committee have not thought proper to inform the subscribers of their second application to parliament, or of their future views; it is known that they did again apply, and that their petition was treated by the house as such a crude, partial, and hasty production could only deserve.

To the Members of the PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and to APOTHECARIES in general throughout ENGLAND and WALES.

GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Committee are apprehensive that they may be imagined by some, to whom the difficulty of their task is not fully known, to have been guilty of great delay in giving an account how far they have endeavoured to fulfil the trust delegated to them. To efface entirely every imputation of this kind, it becomes necessary not only to state distinctly the objects which they conceived themselves directed to investigate, but the means also which they have employed to obtain such satisfactory evidence, as may be a foundation sufficiently strong for the future proceedings of the Association: from all which circumstances your Committee feel themselves compelled to conclude, that the importance as well as welfare of Pharmaceutic practitioners has experienced degradation and injustice; and that the people of this country are consequently suffering from the ignorance and imposition of vain and fraudulent pretenders.

As the abuses of Pharmacy were the grand objects of their scrutiny, your Committee, at their first meetings, confined themselves to the suggestion of means which might be calculated to produce general conviction upon a subject, the evil of which had been long to them more than suspected; but of the extent of which it was impossible they could then form

any adequate conception : for they did not imagine that the lives of mankind were so generally entrusted to the ignorant, as the result of their enquiries obliges them now to acknowledge : and although they were prepared to meet a certain extent of mischief, they are sorry, from a conviction formed from incontestible authorities, to declare, that their researches have exhibited it to them in a very alarming degree.

To ascertain these abuses of Pharmacy, so as to take away every shadow of doubt, your Committee have sent prescriptions, written in the most common and obvious terms, to be prepared by various persons styling themselves chemists and druggists : and although the medicines compounded were from the same recipes, yet the compositions were in every instance materially different both from each other, and from what they ought to have been, and the directions for taking them were as various as the medicines compounded.

But a circumstance which your Committee think yet more dangerous to the public was at the same time discovered ; for it was found that these very men, who were proved thus incompetent to prepare medicines, had the audacity to prescribe them ; and who, disdaining the previous labours of education and study, usurped the place of the regular practitioner, directing applications, of whose effects they were ignorant, for diseases with which they were equally unacquainted. The consequences of this conduct we shudder to contemplate.

Such to your Committee appeared to be the abuses of Pharmacy in the metropolis ; their enquiries did not stop there, for completely to fulfil their charge, a correspondence was opened with every principal city and town throughout the kingdom. In almost all of them persons calling themselves chemists and druggists were found, whose subsistence was derived from the adulteration of good by damaged medicines, and the sophistication of the expensive by the cheap ; and notwithstanding open proofs of ignorance and danger, these very pretenders have assumed an appellation
calculated

calculated to convey to such as are unacquainted with Pharmaceutical Chemistry, an idea that from them only can be had genuine and well prepared medicines, a stratagem which your Committee have reason to lament, as having been too generally successful.

The frauds, indeed, are so numerous and of such extent, that competition for the truly honest man can produce nothing short of ruin: and deceptions like these must continue to triumph, unless the efforts of your Committee shall revive the application to Pharmacy, by establishing its importance and its use; by obtaining power to confine it to its just possessors; and thus rendering it neither dishonourable nor disadvantageous for young men to enter into the profession who have the advantages of a suitable education, and sufficient property to enable them to prosecute their studies to the necessary extent. How much the reverse of this has of late years been the case, every practitioner must be sensible—Assistants of competent abilities are not to be obtained, and the lamentable situation of our fleets and armies, for want of *such* Assistants, shews too clearly that the true source from whence they are accustomed to be procured is corrupted, or altogether inadequate to the purpose.

Having thus certified themselves of the existence of the evil and its universal extent, your Committee proceeded to take such steps as were necessary to awaken a general attention to the object in which they were engaged. The first of these was to inform the College of Physicians, the Company of Apothecaries, and the Corporation of Surgeons of London, that there existed such an association; that it had such evils to complain of; that it was occupied on the means for redress, and your Committee besought their aid and interest in the course they should take for the remedy so ardently desired; intimating, also, that an application to the Legislature was a measure in contemplation.

The next step which your Committee thought best calculated to serve the purpose, was to request a conversation with Mr. PITT, for besides that the general object must of course interest him, it was their wish to excite his more particular attention, by stating clearly and fully, the situation of the fleets and armies. The Minister avowed himself convinced of the propriety of their pursuits, and expressed most feelingly his regret that a sufficient number of proper medical attendants for his Majesty's forces were not to be obtained. He recommended them to prosecute the object in view by an immediate application to Parliament. Conformably therefore to his opinion, a Petition, stating concisely the grievances alledged, and praying for redress, was presented to the House of Commons the 6th day of February last, as a measure preparatory to the introduction of a future Bill. In this state your Committee might have rested and have craved your advice and authority for their further pursuits: but as from their numerous correspondents, and their own investigation, the evils are so clearly defined, they cannot close the period of their labours without presuming to suggest what will be necessary to be obtained for the completion of the object. In offering which, they beg leave to state, that they have been actuated by a consideration that the benefit to be derived ought to be reciprocal between the public and themselves. The public ought to be assured of being enabled to apply with the confidence of meeting in the practitioner with a man of professional skill and integrity, who shall be able to give them good advice, and compelled to furnish them with genuine medicines, while the practitioner ought, on his part, to be rewarded for his application, attention, and risk both of his person and property.

The first promoters of the Association have, for this purpose, been induced to hold out, as a precedent, the principles of a bill passed in Ireland, in the year 1791, to regulate Pharmacy in that kingdom; but your Committee is perfectly aware,

aware, that the principles only of that bill can be resorted to; for it would be deficient in its application to redress the evils existing in the present more degenerated state of the profession in this kingdom. Without referring unnecessarily, therefore, to that act, it will be sufficient to state what your Committee have suggested, particularly as every part of the act applicable to this country will be included in what they have to offer.

The Committee deem it necessary, that to procure redress, the fundamental principles must be to require—

First, That the sole liberty to vend Pharmaceutical Preparations, compound Physicians' Prescriptions, &c. &c. shall appertain to the apothecary—for as the apothecary necessarily attends patients without any emolument but what shall arise from the profits of the medicines he may vend, it will be folly to imagine that any person will subject himself to an expensive education, and a waste of time in apprenticeship, if men egregiously ignorant can obtain, under any other appellation, the same advantages, and without the same labour, or that hazard unavoidably, and often fatally, accompanying an attendance upon the infected sick.

Second, That no young men be taken as apprentices who have not an approved education.

Third, That none be assistants without having been examined as to their competency for pharmaceutical compositions, &c. &c. &c.

Fourth, That none be at liberty to settle until examined; nor any person entitled to an examination unless he shall have faithfully served an apprenticeship of five years at the least.

Fifth, That besides the above, the Committee be at liberty to accede to any propositions that may be recommended to them by the College of Physicians; whose advice towards framing a bill it is intended to solicit; and which, from the friendly expressions already made by that learned body, your Committee have good reason to hope they shall obtain.

Sixth,

Sixth, That, to promote these purposes, a competent Court should be established, to consist of *a certain number of members*, who should have full power to make such bye laws and regulations as they shall think may be most conducive to the welfare both of the Public and the Profession.

Your Committee meet on Thursday the 12th and 26th instant, and every Second and Fourth Thursday in every month, at the BUFFALO TAVERN, *Bloomſbury*, at seven o'clock in the evening, when the presence of any Professional Gentleman who can make it convenient to attend, will be highly esteemed, and as they deem it necessary, from the advanced state of the Sessions, that no time be lost in enabling them to pursue the object of preparing a bill, they entreat Gentlemen to meet within such districts as may be convenient, as early as possible, and communicate their observations to the Secretary, in such way as may best avoid a too voluminous correspondence, which has already been found inconvenient.

It will also be necessary to increase their Fund, which at present is but small, before your Committee can venture upon an application to Parliament.

JOHN LEWIS, SECRETARY.

Half-moon Street, Piccadilly.

To those who doubt of the apothecary labouring under great degradation and injustice, I will observe, that to my knowledge a great many have of late years quitted the profession in disgust, after an expensive education, to take up some new mode of life, where the application would be less constant and less arduous, and the recompence more adequate
to

to the services done. A medical gentleman observes, “ that the slave-trade can never be abolished, while the apothecary’s situation shall continue as at present.” That the apothecary in town is frequently sent for to a great distance, and required to go immediately, on the most trivial occasions; as to consult about inoculating a child at some distant period, or attending a lady at a distance of some months, which might have been explained by a note, and his visit suited to his other engagements, or deferred to a future day; and that hurrying messages, of such a nature, frequently are received in an ambiguous way, so as to cause him to be sought in haste, at a great distance, and often in an evening, or on a Sunday, every apothecary, of any practice, must have had many proofs; and not one farthing can be charged for these, and many other consultations of a like nature, where no medicine is sent, be the distance or hurry ever so great. Surely there can be no good reason, why an attorney should have 3s. 4d. 6s. 8d. or 13s. 4d. for a consultation, while an apothecary, whose education has often been more arduous and more expensive, should have no reward; especially if called in cases of emergency, perhaps in the night, where his services are often great, and no second visit necessary; or, when it is, falls the next day to the usual family attendants, the physician and the druggist.

That those who practise in the country, and who often have had an expensive and general education,

are frequently sent for to a great distance, in bad roads, late of an evening, after the patient's men have done work; although this had been foreseen, by the friends of the sick, in the morning, so as to have to return in the night, every practitioner in the country has experienced; and though 1s. per mile is the usual charge for visits in the country, and the medicines sent for; yet, any one being permitted to practise, without regular qualifications, has so degraded the profession, even distant from the metropolis, that gentlemen of talents are often obliged to attend in midwifery cases, for what would hardly pay the hire of their horse, and often in cold nights and bad roads.

It becomes created beings to believe, that the Creator has made man a being every way fitted to his time and place, in the scale of creation. If we find *self-love* and *reason* to be the urging and restraining principles of his nature, then should men, in all their political institutions, or general regulations, have these two principles in view. Self-interest being natural to man, public regulations should ever turn it to the general advantage, by *making it the interest of all to promote the happiness of all*, whether general or particular.

Those who take charge of the health of the country, should be obliged properly to qualify for the task; and if those, who wanted their advice or assistance, knew *that a fee must always be given (proportioned to the distance and hour) when either was required,*
then

then would it become their own interest (the only certain security) to consider their apothecary as a rational creature, who had also an individual interest to pursue.—When all general laws shall make the *private* accord with the *public* good, then will *reason* and *justice* emerge from the back ground ; philosophy, or the study of *nature and nature's laws*, be made the *pursuit of both sexes* ; and the *healing art* assume its due importance, and become a *blessing to the world*.

The measles, in some cases, may attack with peculiar symptoms of inflammation, and require the free use of the lancet, or of medicine ; but I will venture to assert, that if every child, attacked with the measles (the symptoms of which are seldom ambiguous) were kept carefully in bed for four days in a moderately warm room, and supplied freely with only barley water and apple tea, that we should then hear of but few children dying of the measles, though now a very fatal disease. The apothecary's interest now forbids his advising thus ; indeed the use of the *faculty of reason* must become more general in *both sexes*, and *fees given*, before it will be in his power. Dr. Franklin has said, “ God Almighty helps those who help themselves.”

“ Thus the men,
 “ Whom Nature's works can charm, with God himself
 “ Hold converse ; grow familiar, day by day,
 “ With his conceptions, act upon his plan ;
 “ And form to his, the relish of their souls.”

Were

Were further proof necessary to shew the beggarly and degraded state of the profession in this country, I might bring the following :

The prisoners in Ludgate, I have attended many years, daily, or oftener, in cases of fever, accidents, &c. the whole reward is 10l. annually, for advice in all cases of surgery, pharmacy, and midwifery ; and also for furnishing the necessary medicines. While the clergyman, for advice only, once a week, and that occasionally dispensed with, has a salary of 30l. a year ; and has, at this time, a petition before the Court of Aldermen, requiring an increase.

Any respectable attorney would scarcely attend to sign a return of the prison, weekly, (a part of my duty) for the salary which the surgeon is allowed.

When *Reason* and *Justice* shall become man's guide, will he discriminate no better ?

Seeing lately, in a newspaper, that the Pharmaceutical Association intended again to apply to parliament, I determined speedily to publish my thoughts, and having observed the state of the profession in several counties, and also in this metropolis, and been settled as a practitioner in the latter for twelve years, I hope these pages may prove useful.

Finding that the surgeons were likely to be formed into a college, and the late Dr. Hunter's museum given to them, I have hastened these pages, in the hope that parliament may receive some hints useful in forming the Surgeon's Charter ; this expedition, (not allowing me time to copy any part of the manuscript,)

script,) and the uncertainty of professional engagements, will, I trust, plead my excuse with the candid for any small errors, which more leisure might have prevented. I might have gathered useful hints from some of my medical friends; but as this also would have occasioned delay, it has been entirely avoided, and no one will see any part of these sheets, but myself and the printer, till they meet the public eye.

The **PHYSICIANS** I consider a body of men, the best informed, in general science, of any in the country; the British **SURGEONS** also deservedly rank high for general learning and great dexterity: and I know **APOTHECARIES**, whose education and philanthropy would do honour to the profession, were it in a less degraded state. I know my mind is too **HONEST** and **INDEPENDENT** to fit me for a **SYCOPHANT** or a **HYPOCRITE**. I have written without intending to offend any individual; but, “should the gall’d jade wince,” the fault will not be mine; if **PUBLIC ABUSES** exist, such are fair objects for investigation. Satisfied that **EVERY MAN**, of **EVERY CLIME**, not prejudiced by education, or rendered savage by injustice, is my **BROTHER** and **FRIEND**; earnestly hoping, that **MY CHILDREN** may live in times when **DEPENDANCE**, **BIGOTRY**, and **POVERTY**, shall be less general; and when **TITLES** or **BIRTH**, without **TALENTS** and **VIRTUE**, shall be little esteemed; and, hoping for the entire approbation of the honest and liberal, in every department of our profession,

profession, I conclude ;—satisfied that I have written these pages with a view to promote MAN'S HAPPINESS and MY COUNTRY'S GOOD, I contemplate their effects with pleasure, and my conscience approves the deed.

“ The man that's born, his species to protect,
“ Sees guilt in sloth, and robb'ry in neglect ;
“ He owes the world, whatever nature gave,
“ And pays the debt, by being *just* and *brave*.”

Stamford Street, Surry }
Road, }
May 3d, 1797. }

T. CHAMPNEY.

THE
REGULATIONS, &c.

I SHALL not follow a late author on medical reform, by tracing how the healing art was divided amongst its professors, in the times of Hippocrates and Galen, (though it might easily be proved that Hippocrates, Celsus, and the chief of the ancients, practised equally in all the branches of the profession, Hippocrates himself performing all the operations in surgery, with the single exception of lithotomy), but rather give, what appears to me more useful, the regulations and restrictions under which it was practised in the principal nations of Europe, up to the year 1783; and also the state of the profession in our own country; and shall then offer such further regulations as I consider adapted to the state of society in which we now live, and which may be deserving the
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consideration of the legislature: for if an act of parliament is to be passed, the good of the nation requires that it should be such as shall produce the greatest good, with the least possible injury.

The following are the regulations which were in force at the above period.

RUSSIA.

In Russia the regulations were made by Dr. Erskine, a Scotchman, who was appointed, by Peter the Great, chancellor of a medical court or chancery, which regulates every thing respecting either physicians, surgeons, or apothecaries, throughout that vast empire. This court consists of a chancellor or president, vice-president, and several secretaries. The vice-president attends the chancery twice every day, to receive reports from the different provinces of the empire, and the fleets and armies; and to transmit the chancellor's orders for their conduct, &c. and on extraordinary occasions, a number of physicians and surgeons are convened by the president to assist with their advice. There is one chancery at Petersburg and another at Moscow.—No person is suffered to practise in Russia, till he has

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been examined by this chancery, and procured a written testimonial of his qualifications; and if any person presumes to prescribe or administer medicines, in any part of Russia, without first having been examined by the chancery, he is liable to suffer the knoute, (a tremendous whipping), to be sent to the gallies during pleasure, and to forfeit all he is worth, one half to the emperor and the other to the informer.

No apothecary is allowed to give medicines without orders from a physician or surgeon. At every apothecary's shop a surgeon is appointed, with a sufficient salary to attend daily two hours, forenoon and afternoon; and if the patients are not able to pay for their medicines, they are placed to the emperor's account. The apothecaries receive all their medicines from the chancery, and are in fact employed by government; there are, indeed, a few private apothecaries, but these are subject to the rules of the chancery equally with the others.

Every surgeon in Russia, whether in the service of government or not, must, in all difficult cases, call for the advice of a physician or senior surgeon; nor is any surgeon allowed to perform an operation on a pa-

tient, without first having had the advice and concurrence of such, if possible to be procured. If this regulation is neglected, and the patient dies, or should have reason to complain of his treatment, the surgeon would be punished. Physicians, also, in difficult or dangerous cases, are obliged to apply for a consultation.

HOSPITALS, &c.—There are two large hospitals in Petersburg; one for the army, the other for the navy. Each hospital has an anatomical theatre, large enough to contain three hundred students; and also a dissecting room adjoining to each theatre. Each hospital is attended by several physicians, a principal surgeon, five surgeons in ordinary, ten surgeons-mates, and twenty students. There are likewise teachers of physic, surgery, and anatomy, belonging to each hospital; and a professor of botany, who instructs the students of both hospitals, which adjoin each other. The business in these, and every other hospital in the Russian empire, is conducted in the following manner: Every morning, at six o'clock, a bell is rung to warn the physicians and surgeons to get ready; at seven it rings again, to summon them to repair immediately to the ward

ward where the patients are, who require surgical treatment. From this ward the surgeons proceed with the physicians through all the remaining wards. The surgeons-mates write down, in a day-book, what the physicians prescribe for each patient; and, after all the patients have been visited, go with the students of the hospital to the apothecary's shop, where they attend to the preparation of the medicines, then carry them to the respective wards, and exhibit them as was directed. One of the surgeons in ordinary is obliged to be constantly in the hospital; the rest of the surgeons may attend their private patients, but must return at seven o'clock in the evening; but the mates (not being suffered to practise) and the students, are all obliged to remain in the hospital, which they cannot leave without the permission of the principal surgeon.

Reports of the number of sick entered, cured, who have died, and remaining under cure, with the names, &c. of their diseases, are sent to the medicine-chancery every week. If any complaint is made either of a physician, surgeon, or surgeon's-mate, for non-attendance a single day, a month's pay is deducted from his salary; and on those

who bear no rank, corporal punishment is inflicted. If any of the attendants give any other medicines, meats, or drinks to a patient, than what have been ordered by the physicians or surgeons, they undergo a severe whipping.

DENMARK.

The Royal College of Physicians, in Copenhagen, may be considered as a court for regulating the practice of the healing art throughout the Danish dominions, as it is consulted by government on all matters relative thereto, and takes cognizance of all abuses committed by medical practitioners.

No person is allowed to practise throughout Denmark, as a physician or surgeon, till he has gone through a regular course of study, and undergone a public examination in physic, surgery, and midwifery. Apothecaries and midwives are likewise examined by the college, before they can obtain a licence to practise. No patents are granted for disposing of empirical medicines, which are prohibited throughout Denmark under very severe penalties. Practice of physic, materia medica, surgery, botany, chemistry, midwifery, natural philosophy,
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natural history, and the veterinary art, &c. are taught by professors in the university.

There are in Copenhagen naval and other public hospitals, a lying-in-hospital, &c. also a medical society.

There is also in Copenhagen a public institution, the whole expence of which is defrayed by government, for attending all the poor at their own houses: three physicians, three surgeons, and several assistants are employed in attending this institution. In every district of Denmark, a physician and surgeon are appointed and paid by the king, to attend the poor, and to take care that the regulations of the College of Physicians are duly observed. Regular reports are also sent from each district to the college, in case of epidemics, &c.

SWEDEN.

In Stockholm, Upsal, Lund, Abo, &c. are colleges for teaching physic, natural history, botany, anatomy, surgery, natural philosophy, agriculture, chemistry, &c. and in Stockholm there are a royal college of physicians, a society of surgeons, public hospitals, &c.

HUNGARY.

Hungary has also an university, where pathology, practice of physic, anatomy, physiology, materia medica, chemistry, botany, surgery, midwifery, natural history, &c. are regularly taught.

GERMANY.

In the University at Vienna, practice of physic, botany, chemistry, pathology, materia medica, anatomy, diseases of the eyes, midwifery, surgery, natural history, &c. are taught by the several professors.

In Prague the different branches in physic, surgery, midwifery, &c. are taught. At Berlin are also taught, in the Royal College, every branch of physic, anatomy, midwifery, &c. At Gottingen, Mentz, Leipzig, Inspruck, Keil, &c. are professors, who teach medicine, surgery, &c. in every department.

The physicians, as well as surgeons, of Liege are incorporated: before a surgeon is allowed to practise, he must submit to an examination by the assessors of the college and the surgeons of the town, who are convened for that purpose.

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The apothecaries are obliged to serve an apprenticeship of five years, and to undergo an examination by the assessors of the college, before they are allowed to follow their profession. Physicians, who have graduated in any university, are admitted of the college without examination.

HOLLAND.

There are two professorships at the Hague, for anatomy, midwifery, surgery, and botany; and there are similar institutions in almost every large town throughout the United Provinces. The professors lecture in Dutch. There is not any hospital at the Hague; but the sick poor are visited at their own houses, by four physicians and four surgeons, who are paid by the magistrates, and have each their respective districts. At Leyden, the examinations for a degree in physic are such as must preclude any one, not well qualified, from offering himself. Besides lectures in the university of Leyden, on every science connected with medicine, there is a public library, and also a botanic garden for the use of the students. In the hospital at Amsterdam, the physicians and surgeons must attend twice a day.

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There are medical societies at the Hague, Amsterdam, and several other towns in Holland.

AUSTRIAN NETHERLANDS.

In Brussels there is a college of physicians. The surgeons are also incorporated. The apothecaries are not allowed to prescribe. In Ghent there is also a college of physicians, and the surgeons are incorporated.

In Louvain, there are said to be generally above five thousand students in the university, about three hundred of whom are qualifying for the practice of medicine.

No person can practise in the Austrian Netherlands without being a licentiate of this university. No student is permitted to attend the hospital till he has been three years a pupil in the university, where all the branches of physic and surgery are taught.

FRANCE.

The faculty of physic, in Paris, is a college to which every one practising physic must belong. A doctor of the college is annually elected president, and five others, to deliver lectures on pathology, physiology,

gy, chemistry, surgery, and materia medica. These lectures begin the first week in October. Six Members of the faculty meet at the college every Monday morning, at ten o'clock, to prescribe gratis to the poor for two hours. The faculty's library is open every Thursday.

The surgeons of France have a very elegant college, where are apartments for the use of the Academy of Surgery, in which every master surgeon of Paris has a seat, and most of the other surgeons of France are extraordinary, or corresponding, members; the meetings are held weekly. The college has an elaboratory, also an infirmary for patients, who are to undergo any particular operation; an amphitheatre for lectures, capable of accommodating a thousand students, a library, &c.

To be admitted of the College of Surgeons, it is necessary to have served five years with one of the members; to have taken a degree of M.A. in some French university, to undergo a number of examinations; and, lastly, to defend a thesis in the public schools.

Besides the surgeons of Paris, there are a certain number of persons licenced by this college, under the title of *Expertes Occu-*
listes,

listes, Dentistes, ou Herniaires. Every one applying for such licence, must have served, at least, two years under a master surgeon, and submit to an examination before he dare to practise; and should any one assume the title of surgeon, or practise in any other branch of the art than that for which he is licenced, a penalty of 300 livres would be inflicted. Professors on the following subjects were paid by the king, and their lectures might be attended by students free of any expence: physiology, two teachers; pathology, two; therapeutics, two; midwifery, for the instruction of midwives, one; midwifery, for students in surgery, one; surgery, one; chemistry, one; anatomy, two; on operations, two; on diseases of the eye, one.

The apothecaries of Paris are incorporated, and have a good botanic garden.

There are other apothecaries in Paris, who are entitled to the privilege of dispensing medicines, by their belonging to the court, or having some other public appointment. There are schools for anatomy, chemistry, and botany, in (what was called) the King's Garden; all these branches were taught publicly at the king's expence, and
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the botanic garden was open to the public; and also the museum, every Monday and Thursday. There were eight professors and demonstrators paid for instructing students in this garden.

Besides many other hospitals in Paris for different diseases, the Hotel Dieu usually had three thousand patients: one in five are said to have died of all who were admitted.

At Lyons, the physicians and surgeons are both incorporated, and some of the members of the College of Physicians are annually elected, to give lectures in the town-house, on chemistry, anatomy, surgery, and botany.

At Montpellier university, the professors lecture chiefly in French, and the public library is open once a week. There are in Montpellier seven public teachers in physic and anatomy, and nine in the different departments of surgery and midwifery.

In Strasburg university are six public teachers in physic, surgery, &c. The surgeons are also incorporated. By an old law, which is very strictly observed, the number of apothecaries shops in Strasburg is not to exceed six: the owner, wishing to decline practice, may appoint an admini-

strator to act in his name, who, however, must first be approved of by the faculty of physic there.

At Nancy there is a college of physicians, with a good library and an excellent botanic garden, where several professors lecture on the different branches of physic, &c.

The surgeons are also incorporated on a similar plan to the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, consisting of ordinary, honorary, and corresponding members.

The apothecaries at Nancy are also incorporated; their number is limited to eight.

ITALY.

There are colleges of physicians in Rome, Turin, and some other cities of Italy; and in Modena, Pavia, Padua, &c. Practice of physic, surgery, midwifery, and philosophy, are regularly taught by the different professors; but, in the small towns and villages of Italy, the physicians are paid by a tax on the inhabitants, at the rate of about two shillings for each person: these appointments are called *condottas*. If a village is too small to support a physician, two or three others are joined with it, to form a condotta, and their common physician is enabled to keep
a horse,

a horse, a mule, or a carriage. If, on the other hand, the place is too large for one physician, the corporation has more than one salary to appoint, and more than one condotta to dispose of. The smallest condotta brings in about thirty, and the largest seventy or eighty pounds a year; and almost all the families of a condotta, whether they have occasion for their physician or not, send him some little present at Christmas and Easter. Surgeons are appointed to condottas in the same manner as physicians. As for apothecaries, there are none but in great cities; and even in them their number is small. They are not allowed to prescribe; but any body that chuses may set up for one, after passing the usual examinations.

SPAIN.

The practice of physic throughout Spain is regulated by a court for the purpose, called the Protomedicato, consisting of several physicians. No physician is allowed to practise till he has been examined and approved by this court. There are twenty-two universities in Spain, in each of which
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are three professors, who teach the various branches of the healing art.

To be allowed to practise surgery, a person must have served four years with a master surgeon, or have attended an hospital for that period, and afterwards pass an examination, and be approved by the *Protomedicato*.

AMERICA.

In America, I am told, that the professors of the healing art are not much distinguished into different classes; but that, imitating nature, (who has frequently so mixed diseases, that where the physician's province ends, or the surgeon's begins, none can tell) every one practises in all the branches of his profession; and that a moderate fee is taken each visit; every one sending the medicines, or remedies, he prescribes. The practice of midwifery (except in large towns, where they are, perhaps, too fond of some European customs) being chiefly in the hands of females; men only being called in cases of danger, or in child-bed diseases.

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We cannot expect, that in so young a country, public establishments, for teaching every branch of knowledge connected with the healing art, should be numerous. We may, however, hope that a science and art, above all others, capable of relieving the sufferings of mankind, will receive early attention in that extensive country; and that establishments on liberal, rational, and extensive principles, will soon be formed in each state of the Federal Union, where every science, that can tend to ameliorate and improve the condition of man, will be taught their youth of both sexes; and above all others, perhaps, chemistry, botany, mineralogy, and all the different branches of the healing art are deserving of their most early attention. Aided by these and the other sciences, and looking through nature up to nature's God, we may encourage a hope, that the rising generation, in the new world, will learn never to forget, that, to preserve ourselves, and render our fellow creatures happy, is the best service we can offer our Creator: that knowledge increases virtue, by shewing in what the happiness of man consists, and how the creation can best be used for the general advantage.

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That superstition and bigotry are ever the enemies of a free state, making man uncharitable to his neighbour, for only a difference of opinion, and fitting him only for a tyrant or a slave : that all nature shews man was meant for active life, and, therefore, that ignorance and indolence are the source of nearly all the evils he endures : that wisdom and vigilance are the great duties of all ; and that to understand minutely the social compact, of which he forms a part, and to contribute all in his power to prevent abuses from time, and to render it more perfect, so that the general sum of happiness in the nation may constantly be increasing, is a duty entailed on every individual living in society : that there are public duties, in every country, for each to perform ; and from so many not understanding their interests, or neglecting their public duties, it is that the state of civil society has, till this period, afforded so little general happiness. And when it is considered by Americans, that the laws of many states in the union differ from others, both in the value of money, religious toleration, and other points of importance ; the great extent of their country, the immense
family

family estates that must, in a short time, accumulate ; the many pretended teachers of a saving faith, as the road to another world, who are unacquainted with the laws by which the present is governed, with which that country is said to be overrun, and who invariably have the ignorant in their power ; and, above all, that the first principal of man is self interest, the necessity for wisdom and vigilance, and the study of political science for all, must become self evident. Let then convulsed Europe shew, ere too late, the necessity for universal instruction.

When noble aims have suffer'd long controul,
 They sink at last, or feebly man the soul ;
 While low delights, succeeding fast behind,
 In happier meanness occupy the mind.

IRELAND.

Previous to the reign of Charles II. the physicians of Dublin not being incorporated ; nor having any college or public institution for the study of the healing art, and the inhabitants being extremely ignorant and superstitious, like every other country in a similar situation, physic was in the hands of empirics and mountebanks ; the dawn of reason then beginning to display itself, in the nineteenth

year of that reign, the physicians of Dublin were incorporated; but their jurisdiction did not extend more than seven miles round the city. However, in 1762, in the reign of William and Mary, a charter was granted, which extended the jurisdiction of the college to all parts of the kingdom.

The fellows are here admitted, in general, as a matter of form, being doctors of physic of Trinity College, and not by examination. The college have power to compel all physicians, practising in Dublin, except graduates of Dublin, Oxford, or Cambridge, to submit to an examination, and take out a licence, under penalty of 10*l.* a month: this, however, is said never to have been put in practice. There was, so long ago as 1711, ample provision made for a professorship of physic, by Sir Patrick Dunn, who left an estate, which, in 1783, is said to have brought in 800*l.* a year; and yet, at that period, we are told that no professorship had been established in Dublin; but that their youth, instead of being taught gratis at home, were obliged to seek for instruction, at a great expence, in a foreign country, chiefly Edinburgh, Leyden, or Paris.

In 1783, as there was no distinct corporation

tion of furgeons, the furgeons ftill being incorporated with the barbers ; fo was there no regular mode of furgical education ; and any man who chofe might follow the profeffion : the confequence of which was, that Dublin was crowded with irregulars of every fpecies ; as dentifts, occulifts, and men midwives, who feldom had ferved any time except to pharmacy. The hofpitals, though numerous, were then in general poor, and far from being well provided for, moft of them depending on precarious fubfcription.

The hofpitals in Dublin are as follow : St. Patrick's, for lunaticks and idiots, founded by Dr. Swift in 1745.

Mercer's Hofpital, for fick poor, contains fixty-two beds : the phyficians vifit the out-patients Mondays and Fridays, and the in-patients Tuefdays and Saturdays. One of the furgeons attends every day in rotation, and both phyficians and furgeons attend gratis.

The Lying-in Hofpital was newly erected in 1757, and great numbers have benefited by this inftitution.

The Charitable Infirmary was opened in 1728, and is attended gratis by the phyficians and furgeons.

The Hospital for Incurables admits forty-two patients, who are maintained and furnished with clothes gratis; constables, and others, receive half a guinea on bringing in any person who is found exposing their deformities in the streets.

St. Nicholas's Hospital was opened in 1753, and contains forty beds for the reception of surgical patients; one surgeon in turn attends gratis, daily, from 8 till 10 o'clock.

The Meath, now the County Hospital, is a large building, lately erected, at upwards of 2000*l.* expence. The physicians and surgeons attend gratis, having resigned to the hospital the bounty of 100*l.* annually paid them by government.

The Lock Hospital, instituted in 1755, admits about one hundred and thirty patients every year, and the annual expences have seldom exceeded 160*l.*

The Infirmary for sick and wounded soldiers, is attended by a surgeon and an apothecary.

Infirmaries have been erected, by act of parliament, in every county in Ireland, by a tax on the inhabitants; the surgeons to which are paid, and pass an examination previous to their appointment.

Simpson's

Simpson's Hospital is for poor, afflicted with blindness, gout, &c.

An Experimental Society, for promoting natural knowledge, was instituted in 1777; they meet weekly, and distribute three gold medals annually.

This account refers as far back as 1783, since which period an act of parliament has been passed for regulating the practice of the healing art in Ireland; which has, I understand, much benefited both the public and the profession. I lament not being able to give the heads of that act, not having perused it; and to procure a copy would occasion a delay, which it is my wish to avoid.

JAMAICA.

The Island of Jamaica has two botanic gardens, which were established by vote of assembly in 1775, in the neighbourhood of Kingston, with a liberal salary, house, &c. for a botanist, with a view to introduce into the island every vegetable production capable of being cultivated to advantage, either for medicine, food, pleasure, or commerce. One of these gardens consists of seventy acres, and has two climates, the tropical, and that of Madeira. The other consists of

fifty acres, for the reception of the plants of cold climates, being more than three thousand six hundred feet above the level of the sea.

SCOTLAND.

The University of Edinburgh is an institution which does credit to that country, and was first used as a school of physic in 1685; but the regular plan, in imitation of Leyden, was not begun till the year 1720, since which time it has justly been considered one of the best schools of physic in Europe. From the latter end of October to May, lectures are given on every branch of the healing art, and the sciences connected, as theory and practice of physic, and clinical lectures; anatomy and surgery; chemistry; materia medica; botany; midwifery; mathematics; natural philosophy; natural history, &c. Botany in summer, and chemistry and midwifery are continued all the year. The student pays three guineas to each professor whose lectures he attends for the session; three guineas to the infirmary for the privilege of attending the practice of physic and surgery there for the space of one year; and a further sum of three guineas, if he at-

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tends the clinical lectures, without which he cannot visit the clinical wards. The sum of half-a-crown, (or any larger sum,) entitles each student to the use of the library, where he may attend to read three days a week; or he may take any number of books home, on depositing their value till returned. In June and September, a day is set apart for conferring degrees, which, in all the Scotch universities, are only Master of Arts and Doctor. Twenty-two professors belong to the university.

The botanic garden consists of five acres, and is laid out into the School of Botany, where the plants are systematically arranged, on each side of which are placed the officinal plants, shrubs, and trees: this division contains about two thousand species of plants. On the west is the *sylva botanica*, where the tender plants are protected by hardy trees, and so arranged, that a specimen of each may be seen in walking. In this division is the conservatory. A plantation near has had about three thousand plants of the true rhubarb growing many years.

The stipend of the professor of anatomy is 50*l.* per annum; of botany near 80*l.* The
Royal

Royal College of Physicians was formed in 1681, by King Charles II. By this charter they were enjoined to visit all the apothecaries shops within the city and liberties of Edinburgh, at least twice a year, and destroy all insufficient and corrupted drugs; this part of their duty, however, is said to have been long neglected.

They have five stated meetings every year. When officers are elected annually, the college first chuse seven electors, who constitute the council for the ensuing year: these electors retire and nominate a president, two censors, a secretary, treasurer, fiscal, and librarian: on returning, the chair being taken, a vice-president is then named.

Quarterly meetings are held for the admission of licentiates, election of fellows, &c. No person can be elected a fellow, unless he has been previously admitted a licentiate of the college; and by a law, of late date, no licentiate can be promoted to a fellowship, who practises midwifery or surgery.

The licentiates are entitled to practise within the liberties of the city, but are not summoned to the meetings of the college. Doctors of physic, in either of the Scotch universities, are entitled to a licence on
merely

merely paying the fees, which amount to about 55*l*. Graduates of other universities are required to undergo an examination, at which all the fellows have a right to assist. In the election of a licentiate to a fellowship, it is required that he shall be proposed at a quarterly meeting by one of the fellows; **this** motion being duly seconded, is to be determined at the next ensuing quarterly-meeting by ballot, and a majority of votes is sufficient for the election of the candidate.

To encourage the study of botany, a gold medal is given annually to the student who produces the best Hortus Siccus. The student, on his matriculation, generally gives more than the half-crown which the statutes require to the library: this money, with the sum of 5*l*. paid by each professor at his admission, goes towards the purchase of books, &c. The library of the college is fifty-feet long, thirty broad, and twenty high, with a gallery on three sides.

The conservatories in the botanic garden extend one hundred and forty feet in front, and consist of a green-house in the centre, and a hot-house at each end.

The surgeons of Edinburgh were incorporated by the magistrates of that city, so
early

early as the year 1505. This incorporation was confirmed, and new privileges granted by charter, in the reign of King William III. and lately a new incorporation has taken place, by charter of 1770, under the name of the Royal College of Surgeons: by this charter they are empowered to establish a fund for the widows and children of their members, to which each member is obliged to pay 5l. a year, and dying after four yearly payments, his widow receives 25l. annually. If he dies a widower, leaving children, they are entitled in the whole to 100l. All the surgeons in Edinburgh practise as apothecaries; but no person is allowed to practise surgery or pharmacy there, till he has been admitted of this college; nor in the shires of Edinburgh, Berwick, Fife, Peebles, Selkirk, and Roxburgh, till he has been examined and approved by the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is a spacious building, but some of the wards always being kept empty, for the sake of being well aired, the number of patients, in the house at one time, seldom exceeds one hundred and eighty. It is said, that since the year 1741, the number of deaths in this hospital

hospital has been only in the proportion of one in twenty-five.

In the attic story is a lying-in ward, containing ten beds. To purify this ward, no patients are admitted from the middle of July to the middle of November, and none are admitted at any time, but such as will submit to be delivered by the students.—Two small wards (one for men, the other for women) are set apart for such patients as are to be the subjects of the clinical lectures, and these are visited every day by one of the clinical lecturers, with the students; and twice a week a clinical lecture is delivered. Three physicians attend the infirmary patients, and all the members of the college of surgeons in rotation, four being appointed annually for that purpose. The Public Dispensary, (instituted in 1776,) for such patients as are improper cases for an hospital, is attended gratis twice a week by two physicians, and is supported by subscription. Lectures on the patients cases are given to the pupils, and the teachers of midwifery have lying-in-houses, which their pupils attend.

The Philosophical Society, begun in 1731, is held once a month, and each gentleman

is expected to deliver a paper on some subject of natural knowledge, in rotation; which when read, is given to two members, who are expected to examine and deliver in a written report on its merits at the next meeting; and such are published as are thought deserving of public notice.

The Medical **Society**, incorporated by charter in 1778, have a hall, and the meetings are weekly during the winter; each member in rotation delivering in a paper, on some subject connected with the healing art, for public discussion. In electing an ordinary member, three votes reject the candidate. When an ordinary member has delivered in a certain number of papers, or obtained the good opinion of the society, he is usually elected an honorary member: the votes, in this case, must be unanimous; a diploma is then given, and the person continues to have all the privileges of an ordinary member; but is freed from the obligation of attendance, delivering in papers in rotation, &c. Four members are annually elected to fill the chair in rotation, as presidents.

A library, and a museum for curious subjects in anatomy and natural history, form a
part

part of the society's hall, which is spacious, and on which the society have expended a considerable sum of money.

ABERDEEN.—The University of Aberdeen was founded in 1747, and consists of two colleges, to each of which there is a professor of physic.

There is also an infirmary in Aberdeen, which usually contains from eighty to ninety patients, besides those who are not admitted into the house.

The physicians, all over Scotland, those of Edinburgh excepted, generally practise surgery, and also dispense their own medicines.

DUMFRIES has an infirmary, erected in 1777, which contains forty beds.

SAINT ANDREWS.—The university here was founded in 1411, and consists of two colleges; the medical professorship was founded by the Duke of Chandos, with a salary of 50*l.* a year.

LANERK has also an university, with two medical professorships, and one for natural philosophy.

GLASGOW.—The Faculty of Physic, consisting of the physicians and surgeons of Glasgow, was incorporated by charter, granted
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ed to Mr. Peter Low, surgeon ; and Mr. Robert Hamilton, professor of phyfic ; and their fucceffors, by James VI. of Scotland, in 1599. The members of the faculty are bound by their charter to meet once a month, to give advice to the poor gratis, if any attend for that purpose. They have alfo a power of examining and licenfing practitioners refiding in the fhires of Lanerk, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and Air ; and to interdict them, if found difqualified. A plan has been formed for a fund for the widows and children of the faculty. At their hall is a medical library, which is increafing, 20l. being laid out annually in books.

ENGLAND.

The Royal College of Phyficians of London, was firft eftablifhed in the reign of Henry VIII. by an act, the preamble of which fets forth, that “ Forasmuch as the fciencce and cunning of phyfic and furgery, (to the perfect knowledge whereof be requifite both great learning and ripe experience) is daily within this realm exercifed by a great multitude of ignorant perfons, of whom the greateft part have no manner of infight into the fame, nor in any other kind
of

of learning; so far forth, that common artificers, as smiths, weavers, and women, boldly and accustomedly take upon them great cures, and things of great difficulty, in the which they partly use forcery and witchcraft, partly apply such medicines unto the disease as be very noxious, and nothing meet therefore, to the high displeasure of God, great injury to the faculty, and the grievous hurt, damage, and destruction of many of the king's liege people, most especially of them that cannot discern the uncunning from the cunning." This act then says, that no person shall practise physic or surgery, within the city of London, or seven miles thereof, without being first examined and approved by the Bishop of London, or the Dean of St. Paul's, (who shall call to their assistance four doctors of physic; and for surgery, other expert persons in that faculty), upon pain of being fined 5*l.* for every month such person shall practise, without being thus admitted. By this act similar powers were given to the bishop of every diocese, for the examination of persons practising in the country.

Seven years afterwards, in the 10th of Henry VIII. the physicians were incorpo-

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rated

rated into a college, with a power to elect a president, have a common seal, purchase lands, and to make statutes and ordinances for the government and correction of the college; and of all persons practising within the city of London, or within seven miles thereof. This act likewise says, "that no person shall be permitted to practise in any county of England or Wales, without first being examined by, and receiving letters testimonial from the president, and three or more of the elects; unless he be a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge; but even a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge has no right to practise within seven miles of the city, until he has been admitted of the college. The letters testimonial are granted after a single examination in Latin, commonly on different subjects of anatomy, physiology, and the practice of physic; and then the name of the person to whom they are granted, and the county he means to practise in, are registered in the college books. These privileges have since been confirmed by different acts. In 1540, 1553, and 1723, acts were passed, exempting the members from serving parish offices; giving power to the president to commit to prison

persons offending against the rules of the college; and to empower the cenfors of the college, calling to their assistance the wardens of the apothecaries, to enter, in the day time, any apothecary's shop, within seven miles of London, to examine the medicines; and they may destroy all drugs, &c. not meet to be used in medicine. Persons resisting search are to forfeit 10l.

By act made in 1774, the college are empowered to elect annually five fellows, as commissioners for licensing houses for the reception of lunatics, within seven miles of London, or in any part of the county of Middlesex; they are empowered to receive 10l. or 15l. for a licence, according to the size of the house. No licence can authorize any person to keep more than one house; and any person who, without such a licence, keeps more than one insane patient, is liable to forfeit 500l. No licence is granted without recognizance in 100l. with sureties.

Persons so licensed are, within three days after the admission of a patient into their house, (except in the case of paupers, sent by the parish officers), to give notice to the secretary, in writing, of the name of the patient, together with the names and places of

abode of the persons by whose orders he has been received; and of the physician, surgeon, or apothecary, who has certified that he is insane. The commissioners are empowered to inspect licensed houses, as often as they shall think proper; and keepers, refusing them admittance, are to forfeit their licence.

By the same act, similar powers are vested in justices of the peace for the different counties of England and Wales, above seven miles from London, or out of Middlesex. Nothing in the act extends to public hospitals. Dr. Harvey gave, during his life time, an estate in Kent of forty-seven acres, for the purposes of instituting an annual dinner, on the 18th of October; a gratuity to the person (which is each fellow in turn) who shall deliver a Latin oration on that day; and as a provision for the college librarian. Dr. Caldwell and Lord Lumley laid a rent charge on their estates, of 40l. a year, to support lectures on anatomy and surgery. In these lectures it was, that Dr. Harvey, who was appointed to read them in 1615, first publicly delivered his doctrines concerning the circulation of the blood. Dr. Croone also laid a foundation for public lectures

lectures on muscular motion ; and Dr. Gullston, who died in 1632, bequeathed 200*l.* for founding lectures on any medical subject which the lecturer should prefer. These last were to be read between Michaelmas and Easter, by one of the four youngest fellows of the college. The Gullstonian lectures are to be delivered in English, the other in Latin ; and each institution was for three discourses.

Besides the Mansion-house, and near four hundred acres of land in Essex, bequeathed by Dr. Baldwin Hamsey in 1708, the college have had many legacies of books, money, &c. at different periods. The members of the college are divided into three classes : fellows, candidates, and licentiates, who are all allowed to practise ; but the two latter classes have no share in the management of the college. Physicians, who have graduated at Oxford or Cambridge, or at Trinity College Dublin, after going through the usual examinations, are admitted into the class of candidates, and the year following are received as fellows. Physicians, who have graduated in any other university, can only be admitted as licentiates. Formerly it was understood, that a licentiate, of seven

years standing, might be a candidate for a fellowship; but the college, by a bye-law of their own making, (viz. by the fellows,) refuse now to examine any licentiate for a fellowship, who is not of their own chusing. This was contested, and lost by the licentiates, in Lord Mansfield's time, and is now pending in the Court of King's-bench before Lord Kenyon; the college having refused to examine Dr. Stanger, who has presented himself for that purpose.

Formerly persons were admitted into the class of licentiates, without having taken any degree in physic; but a regulation was made some years ago, to prevent any one being examined for a town licence, who is not a Doctor of Physic, of at least twenty-six years of age, and who has not studied for two whole years in some reputable university. Both fellows and licentiates, before their admission, must undergo three examinations in Latin, at three several monthly meetings, before the president and censors; and, if approved, are usually admitted at the next ensuing quarterly meeting. There are four ordinary and fixed meetings (*comitia majora et solemnia*) of the college during the year. The officers are, a president and four censors

censors elected annually, who examine such physicians as present themselves to the college, to be admitted as candidates or licentiates; seven elects, out of which number the president is chosen, and who are empowered, in conjunction with the president, to examine and grant testimonials to physicians intending to practise in the country; a treasurer and a register.

No business can be transacted at either of these meetings, unless the president and twelve fellows are present.

Besides these four quarterly, there are monthly or lesser meetings, (*comitia minora*) which are composed of the president and censors, and are chiefly intended for the examination of physicians, who present themselves to be admitted of the college; or of the president and three or more elects, for granting of testimonials to physicians practising in the country.

The college publish a *Pharmacopæia*, by which all apothecaries in the kingdom are obliged to prepare their officinal medicines. A *Pharmacopæia* was published in 1745, another in 1771, and the last in 1791.

The examination fee, for a town physician, is 5*l.* and for an extra licentiate 1*l.*

The College is in Warwick-lane, near St. Paul's.

THE CORPORATION OF SURGEONS.

The act first restraining the practice of phyfic and furgery in England, had not long passed, when, in the thirty-second year of Henry VIII. the surgeons were incorporated with the barbers, under the united title of Barbers and Surgeons.

In the fifth of Charles I. the surgeons were, by letters patent, authoris'd to elect ten of their members to be examiners; and it was then ordered, that no person should practise furgery within the liberties of London and Westminster, or within seven miles thereof, without having been previously approved by two or more of these examiners: and this sanction was sufficient authority for practising furgery in any part of England. The surgeons continued incorporated with the barbers, having the same common hall till 1745, when an act of parliament was passed, making them distinct and separate companies, when the surgeons were incorporated under the name of the Master, Governors, and Commonalty of the Art and Science of Surgeons of London. By this act,

act, which confirmed all their former privileges, as exemption from parish offices, &c. they were empowered to elect a master, two wardens, and a court of assistants ; in all twenty-one persons, ten of whom are examiners. The estate and hall, with a spacious theatre for anatomy, were given to the barbers, except the sum of 510*l.* and a rent charge of 16*l.* which had been given to the united company ; the former by Edward Arris, for annual lectures on the muscles ; and the latter by John Gale, for one anatomical lecture : both these sums were assigned over to the surgeons. There were other clauses in this act, to enable the new company to make bye-laws, and to elect a master and wardens annually, on the first Thursday in July. They were likewise appointed to examine every candidate intending to serve as a surgeon or surgeons-mate, either in the army or navy ; and his rank takes place according to the qualification allowed by the court of examiners.

Soon after this, the company erected a hall in the Old Bailey, with a theatre for anatomical lectures, and other spacious apartments ; but this hall has lately been sold for barracks for the City Militia, and a
 spacious

spacious house, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, purchased, as a hall for the company. The court of examiners meet on the first and third Thursdays of every month, for the purpose of admitting members, and examining surgeons and surgeons-mates for the army and navy. The examinations are in English, and the members, who mean to practise in the country, pay only half the admission fees; but sign a bond to pay the remainder, in case they shall come to reside and practise in London, or within seven miles. The admission fee is 27l. 11s.

The company's beadle calls on each town member for what is called quarterage; which, at present, amounts only to ten shillings a year; but can be advanced to any sum, and at any time that the master, wardens, and court of assistants may think proper, without their assigning any reason, they alone having the entire controul over the company's concerns, and elect whoever themselves think proper into office; so that the rest of the town surgeons neither have a vote for the laws which bind them, nor yet for the persons who make these laws. Oh! shame, where is thy blush!

When

When an apprentice is bound to a surgeon, within the jurisdiction of the court, it must be done before the Court of Examiners, where he is examined as to his knowledge of the Latin language, and must be bound for seven years, at the expiration of which he is admitted of the corporation, on paying the usual fees, viz. about 28l.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

This company consists of a master, two wardens, twenty-one assistants, a livery of one hundred and twenty-six members, and an unlimited yeomanry.

At the time of their incorporation, in 1617, there were only one hundred and four apothecaries shops within the city and suburbs of London. In their hall are two laboratories; one for chemical, and the other for Galenical preparations. The fund for each of these departments constitutes a separate stock, which is divided into a number of shares, the proprietors of which must be members of the company. No person is allowed more than one share in each fund.

The fund for the chemical department is called the laboratory stock; and that for the Galenical, the navy stock: the medicine
 chests

chests for the navy being supplied from the Galenical side of the hall. The proprietors of the navy stock also furnish the medicine chests for the East India Company. A committee of managers, and a certain number of auditors to examine the accounts, are chosen annually, by ballot, for each department.

The company have a botanic garden at Chelsea, which was bequeathed to them by the late Sir Hans Sloane, on condition of their delivering to the Royal Society annually, fifty specimens of plants, the growth of this garden, until the number should amount to two thousand. A botanic lecture is occasionally given here, by the company's demonstrator; and excursions are frequently made into the country, to collect plants, or to dine together.

When this company was incorporated, in 1617, the admission fine was only 16*l.* but their trade, as wholesale druggists and chemists, has been so lucrative, that the admission fine (for they too can make bye-laws) is now raised to 100*l.* Their hall is in Waterlane, Blackfriars.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES, AND
MEDICAL SOCIETIES IN LONDON.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, in Smithfield, was founded by Henry VIII. in 1539, and in 1729, being in a ruinous state, it was begun to be rebuilt by subscription, and now forms a handsome square, and has spacious airy wards, for the reception of above four hundred patients, with a hall for the meetings of the governors, and apartments for the treasurer, steward, apothecary, &c.

Three physicians, three surgeons, and three assistant surgeons, attend this hospital three days in the week. Thursday is the day for taking in patients, and on Saturday all such operations are performed as have been determined on, and which admit of delay. The fee for a surgeon's pupil is 25 guineas for a year, and if allowed to dress the patients, 50 guineas. A like sum of 25 guineas, paid by a physician's pupil, gives him the privilege of an unlimited attendance. A medical society, similar to that at Guy's Hospital, has lately been attempted here, but is not at present very flourishing. The bedsteads are of iron. A governor pays 50*l*.

St.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, in the Borough, was founded by Edward VI. in 1533. It is an irregular building, consisting of three square courts, built at different times, and contains nineteen wards, besides a chapel, a large hall, apartments for the different officers, &c. The wards are well ventilated, and furnished with iron bedsteads for upwards of four hundred and sixty patients. There is a theatre for anatomical lectures, and another for surgical operations.

Three physicians and three surgeons attend this hospital three days a week. Thursday is the day for taking in patients, and Friday the day on which the principal operations are performed. The fee for surgeon's pupil is 25*l.* for a year, and 5*l.* for a dresser. If the surgeon's pupils go round with the physicians, while prescribing, a further fee of 5 guineas and a half is taken of each. The surgeons, here, do not in general prescribe medicines, even for their own patients. To become a governor, the payment is 5*l.*

GUY'S HOSPITAL, in the Borough, was founded in 1721, by Thomas Guy, a bookseller of London; it contains about four hundred and thirty beds, besides a ward
for

for lunatics ; a spacious elaboratory and an excellent set of baths have also lately been erected, at a considerable expence : the bedsteads are of iron.

Three physicians and three surgeons attend the patients : the apothecary has apartments in the hospital.

The pupils for a year pay as at St. Thomas's; patients are taken in on Wednesdays, and the operation days are Monday and Wednesday.

Surgeon's pupils, attending the practice of the physicians, and their clinical lectures, pay an extra fee of 10 guineas.

The fee for perpetual physician's pupil, at either St. Thomas's or Guy's Hospitals, is 22l.

The surgeon's pupils, entering for a year at either hospital, are allowed to see the practice of both, and may attend for two seasons. A governor of St Thomas's Hospital, having paid 50l. becomes also a governor of Guy's, without further expence.

THE WESTMINSTER INFIRMARY, in James-street, instituted in 1719, contains one hundred and ten beds.

Three

Three physicians and three surgeons attend the patients. The apothecary resides in the house.

The physician's or surgeon's pupils pay 20 guineas each, for a year. The taking in day is Wednesday, and the operation day Saturday. A governor's subscription is 3 guineas annually.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, Hyde Park corner, was opened for the reception of patients in 1734, and contains about two hundred and seventy beds; those governors, who are apothecaries, attend as visitors, to see that the house apothecary does his duty.

This hospital is attended by four physicians, four surgeons, and one assistant surgeon. An apothecary lives in the house.

A physician's pupil pays, for a year, 20 guineas, and is perpetual for 24 guineas. A surgeon's pupil pays 20 guineas for a year, and none are admitted as perpetual.

Taking in day Wednesday, operation days Monday and Friday. A governor pays 5*l.* or 5 guineas annually.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL, Mile-end Road, was instituted in 1740, and incorporated in 1758. It contains about one hundred and sixty beds. Such governors as practise

any branch of phyfic, form a committee, that meet once a month to inspect the medicines used in the hospital. The bedsteads are of iron.

This hospital is attended by three physicians, three surgeons, three assistant surgeons, and a house apothecary.

The fee for surgeon's pupil, for a year, is 30 guineas, physician's pupil 20 guineas. The taking in day is Tuesday, the operation days are uncertain. A governor's subscription is 30 guineas for life, or 5 guineas for an annual governor.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL, at the end of Berner's street, for sick or lame patients, and lying-in women, was instituted in 1745, and the present building erected in 1755. It contains about one hundred and fifty beds.

It is attended by two physicians, two physician men-midwives, and four surgeons. There is a resident apothecary.

The fees for physician's or surgeon's pupils are alike, being 20 guineas for a year. The taking in day is Tuesday, and the operation day, Thursday, weekly.

A life governor pays 30 guineas, an annual governor from 3 to 5 guineas. The lying-in women are attended at their own

houses by midwives, and also by a physician, if needful.

BETHLEM HOSPITAL, in Moorfields, for lunatics, was founded by Edward VI. in 1533. The present building was erected in 1676. It will contain about three hundred patients, one hundred of whom are incurables. Patients who have not been insane more than twelve months, are admitted and allowed to continue for one year, when they are discharged, but are readmitted, in their turn, as incurables. Patients who have been mad a longer time, or who have been discharged uncured from any other lunatic-hospital, are admitted in the month of April, and allowed to remain here for six months. The patients friends pay for their bedding. A committee of governors meet every Saturday for admission of patients.

One physician, one surgeon, and one apothecary belong to this establishment. Fifty pounds constitute a governor.

THE LOCK HOSPITAL, near Hyde Park, instituted in 1747, for cure of the venereal disease, contains about forty beds, and is attended by one physician and two surgeons. Visiting pupils pay 20 guineas per annum.

One house pupil is taken, who pays 50 guineas for a year. Patients are admitted on Thursdays. A governor's subscription is 5 guineas per annum, or 50 guineas for life. The bedsteads have not any curtains or tops, but are of wood.

THE BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL, in Brownlow-street, was instituted in 1749, for the reception of poor married women only; and is attended by two physicians, two consulting physicians, two surgeons, and an apothecary.

THE CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL was instituted in 1750; but the governors have some years since erected a handsome building in the City Road.

It is attended by one physician, two physician men-midwives, two surgeons, and an apothecary.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, for lunatics, erected in 1751, contains one hundred and ten beds, eighty of which are for the accommodation of patients whose insanity is of a recent date, and who are treated medicinally, under the direction of the physician, for the space of one year, if they remain so long uncured. They are then discharged, to be readmitted in their turn amongst the incur-

able patients, for whose use the other thirty beds are set apart.

A committee of governors meet every Friday to admit patients. The patients are taken in without any expence, and according to the order of time in which the petitions of their friends have been delivered to the secretary. A new building, in Old-street Road, which will contain three hundred patients, was some years since erected. This hospital is attended by one physician, one surgeon, and a resident apothecary. The bedsteads are of wood. Twenty guineas make a governor for life. The bond of two substantial housekeepers in 100l. to take the patient away when discharged by the committee, is required by their laws.

WESTMINSTER NEW LYING-IN HOSPITAL, Surry side of the Bridge, was erected in 1765, and is attended by three physicians and one surgeon.

THE SMALL-POX HOSPITAL was instituted by subscription in 1746, not only for relief of patients in the small-pox, but likewise for extending the practice of inoculation, and did consist of two houses at Pancras and in Cold-bath Fields, in the first of which the patients were prepared for inoculation,

culatation, and sent to the other when the disease appeared ; but the house in Cold-bath Fields is now given up, and a building erected adjoining the other at Pancras: both together will contain two hundred patients.

One physician attends this hospital, and there is a resident apothecary.

Patients are admitted every day from nine till eleven o'clock.

Thirty guineas make a life governor, and 5 guineas an annual governor. The bedsteads are all iron, and some of an useful construction for raising patients up in their beds, without the aid of bed-chairs. The physician, Dr. Woodville, has lately published a History of Inoculation.

THE MISERICORDIA, or Hospital for cure of indigent persons afflicted with the venereal disease, near Goodman's Fields, was instituted in 1774, and is attended by a physician and two surgeons.

THE NEW GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL, in Store-street, for the reception of females, is attended by midwives and the pupils of Drs. Osborn and Clarke.

THE DISPENSARY, for administering medicines, &c. to the Infant-poor, instituted in

1769, is attended by two physicians and one surgeon.

THE CHARITY, for delivering poor married women at their own houses, was instituted in 1760: the duties are fulfilled by three physicians. The treasurer, who dispenses the medicines, is a druggist.

THE GENERAL DISPENSARY, Aldersgate-street, was instituted in 1770. This, as well as the other dispensaries, is attended by one or more physicians, and one or more surgeons, at the dispensary-house, about three times a week, to prescribe to such poor as bring a letter from a governor; and such as are confined, are visited at their own houses. An apothecary resides in the house of each dispensary. A governor subscribes one guinea annually, or 10 guineas paid at once make a governor for life.

Some of the others have an establishment for attending midwifery patients at their own houses.

THE WESTMINSTER DISPENSARY, in Gerrard-street, was instituted in 1774.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL ASYLUM, in Welbeck-street, was instituted in 1776.

THE LONDON DISPENSARY, in Norton Falgate, was instituted in 1778.

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THE SURRY DISPENSARY, in Southwark, was instituted in 1778.

THE MIDDLESEX DISPENSARY, in Houndsditch, was instituted in 1778.

THE DISPENSARY, for general inoculation, was instituted in 1777.

THE FINSBURY DISPENSARY, in Clerkenwell, was instituted 1780.

THE EASTERN DISPENSARY, in White-chapel, was instituted in 1782.

THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, for delivering poor married women at their own habitations, was instituted in 1779.

THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY was instituted in 1774, in imitation of one established in 1767, at Amsterdam. The intention is to inform the country of the best methods of restoring suspended life, from drowning or other causes, and to stimulate to long exertion in those cases. Four guineas are given whenever life has been restored; and frequently a silver medal, with appropriate motto, is voted to the medical assistant, who attended the patient; with one of which I some years ago was honoured. Two guineas are also given to the persons who have been active in attempting to restore life, though unsuccessful, provided the

mode of treatment prescribed by the society has been persevered in for two hours. Medical practitioners are appointed assistants in different parts, in and near London, to be called to accidents in their neighbourhood, and receiving houses are appointed, and drags are deposited in several places adjoining the river; books of the treatment which the society recommend to be used in cases of suspension of life, from drowning or other causes, may be had gratis of Dr. Hawes, the Treasurer.

A SOCIETY was lately formed, for supplying the ruptured poor with trusses gratis. The society state, that including every age, sex, and condition, not less than one in twenty are ruptured. The usefulness of such an institution cannot be doubted. Subscriptions are received at Vere and Co's Bankers, No. 77, Lombard street.

A SOCIETY has lately been established, and is now in a prosperous state, for the relief of the widows of medical men, on a plan somewhat similar to those formed in Scotland.

SOCIETIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.

THE LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY, now held in Bolt-court, Fleet-street, was instituted in 1773. The meetings are held every Monday evening, for medical conversation, and reading such papers as are sent in for that purpose. The society has generally published a volume, annually, of such papers as have been thought most deserving the attention of the world.

The society has a public meeting on the 8th of March, every year, when a gold medal, value ten guineas, is given to the author of the best dissertation on a subject proposed by the society, to which the learned of all countries are invited as candidates. Two silver medals are also annually disposed of, one for the best essay or essays, read before the society during the year, written by a fellow; and the other for the best essay or essays by a corresponding member, or by any person not a member of the society. After the medals have been publicly delivered to such gentlemen, whose papers the council has adjudged to deserve them, an oration, on some subject connected with

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the healing art, is then delivered by such fellow of the society as may have been chosen for that purpose at the preceding anniversary; after which the society dine together.

The gold medal for the year 1797 was offered to the author of the best practical dissertation on any one or more diseases, not generally known, peculiar to artificers in any branch of manufactures.

The gold medal for 1798, will be adjudged to the author of the best experimental essay upon the medical properties of charcoal.

The gold medal for 1799 will be adjudged to the author of the best dissertation on the following question: “What are the effects of the different gaseous fluids, upon exposed surfaces of the animal body in a state of health and disease?” It is desired that every answer may, as far as possible, be founded on actual experiments, or well-authenticated facts.

REGULATIONS. — 1st. Each dissertation shall be delivered to the secretary, in the Latin, English, or French language, on or before the 1st day of November, of the preceding year; and the adjudication of the medal

medal shall take place in the last week of the ensuing February.

2d. With each dissertation shall be delivered a sealed packet, with some motto or device on the outside, corresponding with one on the dissertation, and inside the letter the author's name and designation must be wrote, that the society may know how to address the successful candidate.

3d. No paper, with the name of the author affixed, can be received; and if the author of any paper shall discover himself to the council, or to any member thereof, such paper shall be excluded from all competition for the medal.

4th. All the dissertations, the successful one excepted, shall be returned, if desired, with the sealed packets unopened.

N.B. No paper having been received before November last, for the medal of 1797, two gold medals will be disposed of this year, provided satisfactory papers should be sent to the society.

Dr. J. C. Lettsom has been a great benefactor to this society: a spacious freehold house, fitted up for the purpose; a sum of money in the funds, the interest of which provides the annual gold medal; repeated dona-
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tions of books, and money towards establishing the library, are all donations from that gentleman; and clearly shew the great interest which he has taken in this institution. By these and other benefactions, the society are likely soon to have one of the best medical libraries in England.

Every candidate for admission as a fellow, must be recommended by three or more fellows, on their personal knowledge; this recommendation, containing the description, place of abode, &c. must be delivered to one of the secretaries or register, and first read in the council, that they may be satisfied the person recommended has been informed of the regulations of the society, and is eligible according to its statutes. It is then to be read at the ensuing meeting of the society, and hung up in the common meeting room for six succeeding ordinary meetings; and on the last of these meetings, the vote is taken by ballot, if not less than eight fellows are present, and if three-fourths of the fellows present ballot in favour of the candidate, he is declared duly elected; after which he pays an admission fine of 2 guineas, and subscribes to observe the statutes, and pay an annual contribution of 1 guinea.

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The ballot is taken with balls, and a tin box, marked *yes* and *no*. The society have both honorary and corresponding members in almost every part of the world.

THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY of Guy's Hospital, is an institution from which practitioners, as well as students, derive much information. The meetings are held every Saturday evening, from the 1st of October to the last of May.

The business is conducted in the following manner: at seven o'clock the names of the ordinary members are called over; visitors declared by the president; the public minutes of the preceding meeting read; medical news enquired for; and the remarks which may be suggested in consequence thereof. This to be concluded at eight o'clock. The dissertation, which each ordinary member is obliged to produce, on some medical, surgical, or philosophical subject in his turn, having been read over by the author on a former night, is then read by the president, pausing at each sentence, to give liberty to objections or observations from any one present, and to the reply of the author, who must attend to defend his paper. This discussion is continued till half past nine, when,
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if the paper is not gone through, the discussion is resumed the following night of meeting. The public business closing at half past nine o'clock, the weekly subscription is then collected, which is only 6d. and this, with the admission fines, after defraying the necessary expences of the society, is laid out in medical, chirurgical, and philosophical books for the use of the members; but no book is lent out of the library, without its full value being deposited with the librarian; and any member, keeping a book longer than the time allowed, forfeits 6d. for each day he so keeps it, and also the money deposited, or replaces the book with one of equal value, in case it is lost or injured: a very necessary regulation this, for all societies, who intend to preserve their libraries. It was lately agreed to invest this library in the hands of the six presidents (chosen annually to preside in turn) in trust for the society. The London Medical Society have also appointed seven trustees, in whom to invest their library, &c. a necessary precaution for all societies not established by a charter.

THE LYCEUM MEDICUM LONDINENSE, formerly held at Dr. Hunter's lecture room, Leicester-square, and now at Drs. Cruikshank
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and Baillie's, is a similar institution, where dissertations are produced by the members in turn, for public discussion; and where the surplus money is laid out in providing a library. Every one must admit the great advantage of such institutions, where the prevailing diseases are generally the subjects of medical news, and where a paper is read every night of meeting, on some subject of medicine, surgery, midwifery, or philosophy, where every one present has free scope for displaying his talents, in confirming or refuting the doctrines of the author, in free debate, regulated, so as to be useful, by the president for the evening. When I last wrote a paper for the discussion of this society, it was held at Dr. Hunter's, and very well attended. Why its meetings have been lately discontinued, and what have become of its library and other property, deserve to be seriously enquired into; for those, whose admission fines and subscriptions laid its foundation, or promoted its prosperity, have a right either to be summoned to meet as usual, to have the library, &c. given up, that it may be again established on an equally useful plan elsewhere; or to have some satisfactory account from those
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who at present hold the property, respecting their intentions.

There was formerly a society, well attended, similar to the preceding, at Mr. Sheldon's anatomical theatre; but when that gentleman declined to lecture, the society suffered, and was kept some time from decay, by the voluntary subscription of a few members, who met at a tavern weekly; but who at length broke up, and divided the library; amongst which number, myself, being then a student, was one.

There are several other associations of medical practitioners, of a private nature, who meet occasionally at a tavern, as the licentiates of the College of Physicians. Some of these have published periodically, as the Society for the Improvement of Medical Knowledge, which is held once a fortnight at Old Slaughter's Coffee-house.

Besides the lectures on anatomy, surgery, practice of physic, midwifery, chemistry, &c. delivered by the physicians and surgeons of the several hospitals, there are other gentlemen, of great respectability, in London, who give public lectures on anatomy, surgery, chemistry, philosophy, botany, &c. The lectures, except on botany, generally commence

commence the beginning of October, and end in May, during which period two courses are given. For each course of lectures pupils usually pay about 3 guineas; and for 8 or 10 guineas, may be considered entitled to an unlimited attendance. The pupils, attending lectures on anatomy, usually study practical anatomy at the same time, for which further fees are paid, similar to the lectures, of about 3 guineas each course, or from 8 to 12 guineas for a perpetual pupil; besides which, other expences must occur in attending practical anatomy: and to the sums to be paid for attending the practice of any hospital, the reader must add the fees expected by the different officers, &c.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM and the ROYAL SOCIETY, though objects of national grandeur and utility, I forbear to mention in detail; but the Museum of the late Dr. Hunter was collected and prepared with such assiduity and expence; and from the preparations of diseases, and the specimens of human and comparative anatomy which it contains, is so well calculated to become of use to the profession and the public, that it would be a disgrace to the nation, to suffer a collection,

is conducive to its honour, to be removed from England ; but if purchased by the nation, and given to the corporation of surgeons, it should be under such regulations, as to afford free access to all the professors of the healing art, whether natives or foreigners; which would make England respectable in the eyes of foreign students, and become of great national utility. But to be of advantage, all monopoly must be entirely rejected; for if, like the *sanctum sanctorum* of old, it should only be viewed by the chosen few, it will reflect disgrace, rather than honour, on the nation, and its public usefulness be wholly done away.

To those who can be gratified by a general display of the animal and mineral kingdoms, with many vegetable productions, and curious works of art, the LEVERIAN MUSEUM, over Blackfriar's Bridge, will afford much satisfaction; and may at any time be viewed for the small sum of one shilling; or, for one guinea, admittance is obtained for three months.

I have given the regulations under which the healing art now is, or lately has been practised, in the several countries with which we are best acquainted; and also those
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which have been adopted at several periods in our own country: I now proceed to comment on the latter, and to offer such observations as I trust may prove useful, should the legislature undertake to regulate the practice on a general and liberal plan, so as effectually to benefit both the public and the profession; and such a regulation only I would wish to promote.

THE PHYSICIAN.—In the Royal College of Physicians of London, the fellows take the whole management of the pecuniary, as well as all the other, concerns of the college, and make such bye-laws as they at any time think proper; so that the licentiates, though more than twice the number of the fellows, have nothing to do with the laws but to obey them, and when they dare to resort to a court of law for redress, (as is the case with Dr. Stanger at this time, in the King's Bench), the fund, which their admission fines have in a great measure furnished, is expended in keeping them from being examined for the rank of fellows; nor are they admitted, unless through a private invitation, to partake of the dinner provided annually at the college. That a body of men, so learned, and so capable of understanding their rights as

the licentiates, should so long have endeavoured in vain to assist in making the laws by which they are governed, and to have a vote in the disposal of the property of the college, must excite wonder in all minds not warped by prejudice. The extra licentiates, both in and out of England, who have been examined by the college, are only about twenty-three in number, and cannot practise in, or within seven miles of, the metropolis.

In London, the usual fee for attending a patient is one guinea every second visit, and half a guinea, if the doctor is consulted at home. But in the country, when long attendance is required, some physicians have adopted different modes, as a weekly fee adapted to the circumstances of their patient.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—As the lives of persons, throughout the country, are alike deserving the attention of the legislature, it would appear reasonable to expect, that every person practising, in whatever part of the kingdom, should be equally obliged to qualify himself for so important a trust; and give proof of having done this, by submitting to an examination; and that a severe penalty should be inflicted on all
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who attempt to practise without such previous qualifications.

With respect to the present division, into physician, surgeon, apothecary, and man-midwife, under which the profession is practised, whether it is either necessary or useful, demands to be considered; for as the same complicated machine is the object to be relieved by either, the laws and economy of which form the enquiry of all; and nature having frequently so mixed diseases, that to form a true judgment, and afford the necessary assistance, all parts of the profession should be equally understood, it would appear, that to qualify for, and practise the whole, under the name of Doctor of Physic, (or rather Doctor of Health,) as is done in Scotland and America, would be attended with much advantage to the public. Should each person qualify to practice in all the departments of the profession, small fees should then be taken, as 5s. or 10s. 6d. each visit, with extra fees for all the larger operations; and all medicines prescribed, might be furnished free of further expence, from the doctor's own house. The motto, 'pay me while in pain,' should ever be had in view, in the practice of the healing art; and it

should always be understood, that the fee is for advice or assistance, not medicines; but as remedies may occasionally be wanted, which have formerly been prescribed, without further advice, to obviate any difficulty from this circumstance, a certain and small ready-money price might be affixed on each kind of medicine, when sent for without a consultation.

When consulted at home, half the usual fee only might be taken; and when the distance was above one mile, one shilling or more, for each mile afterwards, should be added to the usual fee. Though all doctors might not become, even by practice, sufficiently dexterous in performing the more dangerous operations, this would be no considerable objection; for, when each had, by a general education, become acquainted with every department of the profession, particular abilities would still find their level, and each would be employed to prescribe, or operate, as inclination might lead, or the public opinion should obtain in his favour.

Should the practice be thus regulated, each doctor should have at least two pupils, one of whom should be employed, in the shop or laboratory, during the first period
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of his apprenticeship ; suppose three years : when, always resigning this employ to a junior, the remaining three years (six being the term) should be entirely devoted to study and attention to diseases, under the immediate care of the principal, who should be expected, not only to instruct his pupil in the theory of botany, chemistry, pharmacy, anatomy, surgery, and midwifery, and to furnish him with books on these and other subjects connected with the healing art ; but also to make him practically acquainted with all those subjects, under his own immediate inspection. A youth, intended for the profession, might, before indentured, be examined by the practitioners of the county hospital where he should reside ; or the college, if in London, as to his fitness for the profession ; when, on being allowed, he might serve from the age of fifteen to twenty-one ; after which he should be obliged to attend the county hospital, (if in the country), where every department of the profession should be taught and practised, for at least one year, and pass an examination ; and a like period in an hospital of the metropolis, or some English or foreign university, where both theory and practice were

taught : when, on passing a second examination, a licence or diploma should be given ; and no one should be suffered to practise, without such previous qualifications, in any part of the kingdom, under a severe penalty, half to the informer.

When it is considered how many, who require a physician, can but ill afford a guinea, and how expensive an illness becomes with physician and apothecary, the latter having no requital for his attendance, but in the quantity of medicines he may send in ; that the person, who has been made practically acquainted with pharmacy, and who, by having been used to operate on the human body, can bleed his patient, stay the hemorrhage from a divided artery, reduce a fracture or dislocation, or assist in the dangerous cases of childbirth, can alone be useful in the several casualties to which his patient is liable, (all of which every practitioner should certainly understand) : when, I say, these and other considerations, which will hereafter be noticed, are duly weighed, the idea of mixing the profession, as nature has frequently mixed diseases, will, to the candid, appear neither wild nor visionary. The profession, however, being at present
divided

divided in the metropolis and the larger towns, I shall consider each division separately, though I am inclined to think the plan of general education and general practice would be the best, both for the public and the profession, throughout all parts of the country.

The physician then, provided botany, pharmacy, and chemistry were not only theoretically, but also practically pursued during his studies, and he were also well accustomed to operate on brutes and the human body, might practise, as at present, for moderate fees, under advantages hereafter to be mentioned : it, however, deserves to be considered, whether his prescriptions should not be written in English, and the quantities wrote at length, instead of being marked in characters so nearly resembling each other, as to have given rise to fatal mistakes ; but if mystery must still be kept up in recipes, it yet would appear that the quantities being expressed in a less ambiguous manner, and the direction for taking or using the remedy, which, at any rate, the patient or his friends must know, being wrote in plain English, cannot be objected to by the greatest advocates for secrecy. Indeed the latter is

is now done in common by one or more physicians of great respectability in this city.

SURGEON.—The Corporation of Surgeons, like the College of Physicians, is managed by a few persons, the master, wardens, and court of assistants, twenty-one only, who claim the whole command of the revenue, and other affairs of the company; the town surgeons, who pay about 28*l.* on obtaining what is called the grand diploma after examination, (from three to four hundred in number), having no more to do with the direction of the company's funds, or the conferring of its honours than their own beadle. Indeed, if a member attends the annual dinner, by paying 15*s.* he may have the honour of tasting their venison, and drinking the health of his governors, the master, wardens, and court of assistants. When, however, a quarterly contribution, or a demonstrator to the anatomical lecture over a criminal, is wanted, he is then considered qualified in his turn, though not to vote in making the laws by which he is to be governed, or even for those who make them.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—As the studies of the physician and surgeon generally
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are, and always ought to be, directed to the same end, and diseases frequently are complicated, I see no reason why a person, who has qualified and been examined for either, should not be at liberty to practise in either or both, as occasion may require or himself may prefer ; and when we know how often the patient, and even the practitioner, is unable to class the disease to either separately, and the difficulty and expence of employing both, with the addition of an apothecary ; I am of opinion that combining the two, as before suggested, would be attended with many advantages. But if they must be considered separate professions, let those who are able draw the line clearly, and each be expected to qualify for his own ; furnishing each the remedies he prescribes, or sending all prescriptions to the apothecary, as the law shall order. In case the surgeon shall be allowed to send his own medicines, botany, chemistry, and pharmacy, should be practically studied. Indeed such knowledge being indispensable to all who prescribe, shews the propriety of general education and general practice ; for, who that has spent any time in a shop, does not know that recipes are sometimes wrote both by the physician

fician and furgeon, which would not have been, had a practical knowledge of pharmacy formed, as it ought to have done, a part of all medical and chirurgical education. The furgeon then, like the phyfician, fhould be examined as to his fitnefs for the profeflion, before he was articulated, being not younger than fifteen years. He then, if approved, might ferve fix years, as before ftated, not to make medicines only, but alfo to ftudy difeafes, and every part of fcience connected with the healing art, for the firft three years. He then fhould practically mature the theory he had attained, under the eye of his inftuctor, for the remainder of the term ; after which he fhould attend a county hofpital, and an Englifh, or foreign college, for at leaft one year each, and be examined before allowed to quit either ; after which, on obtaining a diploma, he might be allowed to begin practice on his own account. But, without fuch previous qualifications and examinations, no one fhould be allowed to preſcribe or operate throughout the kingdom, under fevere penalty, one half to the informer. That a youth, who has paſſed only for a furgeon's mate, after a flight examination, fhould have the power to settle in London,

don, and have all the privileges of a town surgeon, whose examination has been strict, and who has paid a fine of 28l. is a hardship which calls for a remedy. If those, who have served in the army or navy, are to have recompence, let it be such as not to interfere with the rights of individuals, or to injure the public: to be allowed to attend gratis, to qualify for a diploma, or a small pecuniary allowance, might answer the purpose, without public injury.

APOTHECARY.—The public abuses of this company far exceed any thing noticed in the other two; for, besides the bye-laws which a few of these gentlemen make, to favour themselves and bind the majority, instead of guarding the public against quacks and pretenders, who have had no means of becoming acquainted with the profession, they have, on the contrary, become wholesale druggists and chemists themselves, and their monopoly, as a trading company, and excessive profits, have tempted many of the wholesale druggists to become of their body; but any person, who has not even served a few years to a druggist, may begin in any part of the nation, to practise as an apothecary, and may prey on the lives of
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the people with impunity, provided he does not interfere with the lucrative monopoly, which the credit of a charter has given to this company. Indeed, the trade of late has afforded such advantages from the navy and army, the former of which are obliged to deal with them only, that the man-trap, of 100l. admission fine, is now set to deter intruders ; though all now admitted are only suffered to partake of the sweets gradually, and in such portions as their masters think needful and salutary.

That these gentlemen, after becoming themselves the largest wholesale druggists and chemists in the kingdom, should continue to enjoy the right, by law, to visit the shops of all apothecaries, druggists, and chemists, in or near London, in company with two physicians, whenever they may think proper, and have the power to destroy all drugs, &c. which they, in their wisdom, may not approve ; and those resisting search, being liable to 10l. penalty, shew, beyond controversy, that the profession wants legislative interference. If wisdom or profit is to be subjected to monopoly, it should be only for the public advantage, and not to enrich a few individuals, who leave diseases to the
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care of any pretender, provided they are suffered to eat their venison, and sail in their gilded barge without interruption; in which their extravagant profits enable them often to indulge. That their profits are enormous will not be doubted, when it is known, that many of their members, who are all served thirty-five per cent. cheaper than other apothecaries, should still find it to their interest to purchase many of their articles, both drugs and chemicals, at another market; which I know to be the case.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—The apothecary then, should either be obliged, like the physician and surgeon, to obtain a regular education in every department of the healing art, including chemistry, botany, and pharmacy, by serving a regular apprenticeship, (being first examined as to his fitness for the profession, like the others) of six years; half spent in a shop or laboratory, and the remainder in study and attendance on the sick, under a proper instructor; after which he should attend a county hospital, where both theory and practice are supposed to be taught, for at least one year; and the like period in a public college or hospital in England or elsewhere; and after passing an

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examination, and obtaining a certificate on quitting each, should then be allowed to practise in any part of England.

In this case, the apothecary, having obtained an education equal to a physician, should be entitled to a fee every attendance, with pay for his medicines only, when a consultation should not be required; and which charge should of course be much less than at present, when advice is not paid for. Should it be observed, that I am describing the apothecary exactly like the physician; I answer, if he shall continue to prescribe, I do not wish to describe him otherwise; as in that case I think it indispensable that he should, conformable to the former motto, ‘pay me while in pain,’ receive a fee of some magnitude each visit; and that he should, to practise in any part of England, not only pursue the regular mode of education, before laid down, but also give proof of his ability for so important a trust, by undergoing one or more examinations. Were all who prescribe, thus qualified, a person, in sending for an apothecary, would be sure of meeting with a man of talents; and surely those who are generally first consulted, even by families of opulence, and perhaps in the only stage of the disease, where any
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thing can be done to save life, should have qualifications adequate to the task; or that many must suffer the loss of their dearest relatives and friends, no one will hesitate to allow. The apothecary, in this case, receiving an adequate fee for his attendance, would send his medicines in the least bulky and least nauseous form; and instead of being qualified to persuade his patient to take, and to send him boluses, drops, powders, and fops, as at present, a quart of diluted hydrogen or oxygen gas, for his patient to breathe, or a few grains of antimonial powder for him to take in jelly, or of calomel or emetic tartar to rub into the surface of the body, would equally procure him a fee for his attendance, and relieve his patient from the disgusting necessity of swallowing the contents of some dozens of phials, on each slight indisposition; with which, however, he must at present comply, or else his apothecary, perhaps a man of worth and talents, must live distressed, and at his death, leave a family for the bounty of some public charity, or friend to provide; after their father had, in an anxious and arduous employ, probably sacrificed his life for the public advantage. Some author has said,

God and the doctor you alike adore,
 Just on the brink of ruin, not before ;
 When you get well, they're both alike requited,
 God is forgotten and the doctor slighted.

Any one who knew how often this happens, would not hesitate to allow every one who has spent his time and fortune in qualifying for the profession, to take a fee while his services are fresh in memory : the liberal will requite every one ; the selfish should be obliged to do so, while their interest requires it to be done.

As the apothecary described above would very properly deserve to be considered as a physician, although he should keep a shop or elaboratory, if it is thought better that the physician and surgeon, or both under one title, as Doctor of Health, only should be allowed to prescribe, I see no objection to the regulation. In this case, the apothecary would be, with the difference hereafter to be proposed, what the druggist or chemist is now. The only education which would then be absolutely necessary to the apothecary, would be to have served a regular apprenticeship in a shop and elaboratory ; to have an adequate knowledge of drugs ; and to have been made well acquainted with both the theory and practice of botany,

ny, chemistry, and pharmacy ; to ascertain which, an examination might be undergone before he was allowed to begin business. If the apothecary should be thus placed, all prescriptions, wrote by the physician or surgeon, should be made only by him : besides which, he should apply electricity ; prepare all chemicals, and other remedies used in medicine ; also the different factitious airs ; and, in short, furnish every article for diseases, which was ordered by the physician or surgeon. He should keep his shop or laboratory furnished according to the Pharmacopæias of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and he alone being allowed to retail drugs or medicines, and his business being in his laboratory or shop, could then afford to furnish good medicines at an easy expence. The physicians or surgeons in a body might be allowed to examine into the quality of his drugs and chemicals, when they should think proper, and be obliged to do it at stated times ; but instead of being allowed, as at present, to destroy bad or damaged articles, they should take a specimen of each, and sealing them up in the presence of the owner, they might be submitted to the whole college, or a com-

mittee appointed for the purpose at some stated period; when, on being found adulterated or base, they might be destroyed, or a fine might be inflicted. Any one preparing chemicals or prescriptions, without such examination and licence, should be subject to a severe penalty, half to the informer.

Whether the at present separate branches of physician, surgeon, and man-midwife, shall be jointly practised, under the general name of Doctor of Health, each furnishing the remedies he prescribes, and the druggist only retailing drugs; whether the physician and surgeon only shall be allowed to prescribe, the apothecary becoming a retail chemist and druggist, and making up all prescriptions, (the druggist dealing in drugs wholesale only); or whether, besides the exclusive right of preparing all medicines, and retailing drugs, and both preparing and retailing chemicals, the apothecary shall continue to visit and prescribe under certain limitations, or even at home only, are matters which deserve serious consideration. One thing, however, should be insisted on, viz. that all who are by law allowed to attend on the sick, and prescribe for diseases, or to operate on the human body, should have properly qualified

qualified for the task, and given proof of having done so; and then be rewarded, when consulted, as men of education, who devote their time and talents to the public service, have a right to expect; which reward, I presume, they can only receive by taking regular fees during the illness.

MIDWIFERY.—When it is admitted that childbirth is not a disease, but a natural effort of the mother, to relieve herself at a period assigned, we cannot but wonder, that it should be thought necessary for female delicacy to be thrown aside, and men employed on all common occasions.

Without referring to the story of Eve and the apple, the philosophic mind will enquire how it happens that women, in civilized society, should require more assistance, and incur greater danger, than women in a state of nature. Dr. J. C. Lettsom, in a pamphlet, deserving the consideration of mothers, has given an opinion, that the tight lacing, which females from a very early age are subjected to, and which pressure, from being gradually increased, becomes extreme, without being particularly irksome, has a tendency to lessen the evolution and growth of the breasts, rendering suckling, in many cases,

either difficult or impracticable; and that this tight lacing, together with the weight of petticoats, pockets, &c. hanging round the body and hips from childhood, instead of being suspended from the shoulders; with the sedentary occupations, and much too sparing and flimsy plan of living, to which females are often doomed, may probably, in many cases, contract the womb and parts concerned in parturition, and produce not only the sickness and other complaints, universal with females in refined society, in the early period of pregnancy; but also most of the inconveniences experienced in childbirth; and when we consider the little inconvenience that is experienced by negro women, and others whose bodies have not been contracted or distorted by dress, poor living, and a sedentary life while young, we cannot but see much reason to refer these evils to natural causes dependant on ourselves, and which it is in our own power, in a great measure, to remove. A few weeks ago, a Welch girl, about twenty, came into the New Compter in the evening, under pretence of being destitute. Looking big, and appearing but poorly, she was accused, by a female prisoner

soner, with being pregnant ; this she denied, and was locked up at night in a cell alone ; but when the door was opened the following morning, it was found that she had brought forth alone, in the night, a fine female infant. I was called about nine o'clock, when I ordered her up stairs into the sick ward, where she and the infant did well, without any bad symptom.

I do not mean to infer that, because females, in a state of nature, retire when in labour, and seldom require any assistance, my fair country-women should imitate such conduct ; no, to render their sex more happy, and of greater weight in the creation, shall ever be my aim, convinced that on their happiness depends our own.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Midwifery, then, I am of opinion, should ever be practised by females, except in urgent cases of difficulty and danger, when only a man should be called in. The women allowed to practise in so important an art, should, however, be qualified very differently to many who practise at the present time.

I would then have a young woman well instructed in English and French, articulated to an experienced midwife, from the age of

till twenty ; the former part of which time might be spent as a nurse to lying-in women, where she should be employed to manage and regulate every thing required by the mother or infant ; particularly the diet and clothing proper for each, as well as in administering every medicine, and observing its effects, that should be directed by her tutoress, or a doctor.

After having spent about two years in this way, and acquainted herself with the theory of midwifery, infantile diseases, &c. both from books, instruction, and observation, the young lady should then spend the remaining two years in accompanying her tutoress to every woman she shall attend ; and, after observation and proper instruction, should then begin herself to render the necessary assistance ; and continue occasionally to do so, but always under the inspection of her instructor. After having completed her four years apprenticeship, or six, if more approved, she should then spend one year at least under a male teacher, in some public institution, where female pupils only were admitted, and where both theory and practice, treatment of infantile diseases, &c. should be regularly taught ; after which,

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a board of male or female practitioners, or both, should examine her qualifications for beginning practice; and, on being found qualified, she should then have a licence; and, every one presuming to practise, without first having so qualified, and obtained such licence, in any part of England, should be subjected to a severe penalty, half to the informer.

These midwives might be enjoined, in all cases of difficulty or danger, to call in a physician or surgeon; and in case any woman or infant should die under their hands, without this having been done, where, from the nature of the case, time was allowed for calling in such assistance, the midwife might be fined, and for a second offence, interdicted practice for a time, or altogether.

When a physician or surgeon was consulted during labour, (and as he would attend to give advice for a moderate fee, this might always be done, where there was the least apprehension of danger to mother or child), after advising with the midwife, he might then retire, unless in cases of danger, and when his assistance was absolutely required; but should it be necessary, he might pay further visits at times appointed, the
midwife

midwife remaining in all cases. What can be more unnecessary, or unmanly, than for a surgeon or physician to neglect his other patients, to sit by a lady's bedside, for hours together in a natural labour, which any female of prudence could manage; and should his duty prompt him to leave his patient to pursue other urgent concerns, he may then, by his absence, create much anxiety, and perhaps the mother or child may suffer; for though but little help is in general required, to be present is absolutely necessary.

While men only shall attend in cases of childbirth, and the mother and infant are left so much in the hands of a nurse, perhaps an ignorant one, we can never expect the diseases of infants to have that attention which humanity requires; for the nurse must be courted and have her way, least the doctor's interest should suffer; and until midwives of regular education are employed to attend on their own sex, and nurses are also obliged, by law, to qualify and obtain a certificate, to follow their occupation, and under the power of suspension, in case of misbehaviour; we need not expect that water-pap and Godfrey's cordial, acting as cause and cure, will ever be
abolished

abolished from the nursery. By water-pap, (bread, water, sugar, and generally carraway or aniseed,) thousands of infants annually perish in this city; for, when the watery gripes are brought on by such food, the nurse is consulted, who acts as doctor, and being generally ready provided with a nostrum, the poor creature, with the pap and the cordial, and such trash, is reduced to a skeleton, and the thrush soon frees it from its persecutors; and if a doctor happens to be consulted, he orders medicines, but seldom orders a removal of the cause; without which, all medicine must prove useless. Were mothers to decline tea and such flimsy diet, for one more nutritive and more agreeable to this climate, they would generally be enabled to perform the great office of a mother; but when, from any cause the breast milk is wanting, it should be supplied with good cows milk, mixed with ship-biscuit, tops and bottoms, rusks, &c. or with the juices of animals, as good broth of fresh meat, or beef tea, with rusk or biscuit; or with tapioca, sago, and the like; not bread, sugar, and water, on which a whelp or a kitten would pine and die. When teeth are formed, good milk, animal, and farinaceous foods, well prepared,

prepared, are proper ; and not tea, bread, butter, and porter only, on which latter, however, both nurse and child, in and near London mostly exist. I am not here to give the prevention or cure of diseases in detail ; but hope the above hints may prove useful. When females shall be taught by philosophy all moral good, and the health and education of their offspring shall constitute their chief employ and happiness, then will many of the now prevailing diseases of children be totally eradicated, and a new race, with bodies and minds fitted to protect and succour in their turn, will then do honour to their parents and their country.

To those, who object to the capacity or dexterity of females, for attending their own sex in childbirth, I reply,

In education all the difference lies,
 Women, if taught, would be as brave and wise
 As haughty man, improv'd by arts and rules,
 Where God makes one, neglect makes twenty fools.

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.—I have already said, that whoever makes up and sends out medicines, should prepare his own chemicals ; and if this is done by the apothecary, it should be according to
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printed forms, laid down by the College of Physicians, and the Corporation of Surgeons, his shop and elaboratory being liable to be inspected by them; but as some articles might not be worth the preparing by every individual apothecary, a common elaboratory should be established, under the like inspection, in which every apothecary, in or within seven miles of London, should be entitled to invest a certain portion of his property, and have a vote in the direction; and if thus regulated, the present hall might fully answer the end; but the company should then wholly give over dealing in drugs, or retailing of chemicals; for, as every apothecary would be a judge of the drugs he used, the wholesale only should still be left to the druggist, but the retail, of course, to each individual apothecary. A like elaboratory, on a similar plan, should be established in every county town in the kingdom, as the joint property of all the apothecaries in the county, who might chuse to be subscribers, and liable to be inspected by the physicians and surgeons of the respective county.

The druggist then should only deal by wholesale to the apothecary, army, and navy,

vy; or, in other words, should become a drug merchant, keeping a warehouse, instead of a shop: and when it is considered, that however many partners there may be in a house, their attention is directed to travelling for orders, attending 'Change, and keeping their books; and that the chemicals, even preparations of mercury and antimony are left to some labourer, generally ignorant of the principles of chemistry, and perhaps only able to pursue the beaten track of the house, it is matter of wonder that public laboratories, under the inspection of those who prescribe medicines, have not long ago been established, for the public advantage, at least in every county town of England. If it were not that a great number of respectable men, who have embarked their capitals as druggists, would be greatly injured, a warehouse of genuine drugs, of the best quality, might be kept as the joint property of the apothecaries of each county, as well as an elaboratory; but as sophistication can in simple articles generally be detected by careful observation of their appearance or operation, provided the druggist were obliged to forego all right to prepare chemicals or compound medicines, he might still be

be resorted to in all cases, as a wholesale druggist; but, where the public good requires legislative regulation, as in the preparation of all chemicals and medicines, no individual interest should prevent its taking place.

DENTISTS, OCULISTS, AND HERNIARIES.
—These also abound in this metropolis. Why a surgeon should think it less his business to draw a tooth, extract a cataract, reduce a hernia and apply a proper bandage, or apply cupping glasses to a patient, than to set a broken leg or arm, or to bleed, I am at a loss to discover. Tooth-drawing is an operation to which most persons are obliged to have recourse, and several lives have been lost, by this operation being improperly done. Ruptures, it is known, are also a very common and a very dangerous disease, and often require the nicest discernment, properly to distinguish their nature; and for want of this discernment and anatomical knowledge, trusses have not only been applied to diseases of a directly different nature, but also to ruptures, before the parts protruding have been properly returned; whereby inflammation has taken place, and death has been the consequence.

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That to operate on the eye with success, both dexterity and anatomical knowledge of the part are required, none will deny; and on cupping being performed speedily and properly life often depends; yet that any mechanic or blacksmith, may perform any or all of these operations, even in the metropolis, with impunity, and maim or mutilate the credulous or unwary daily, is a fact which none will deny.

If a surgeon shall chuse to confine himself to operations on the teeth or eyes only, after a regular education, there can then be no objection; but certainly no person should be allowed to prescribe medicines, or to perform any operation on the human body, throughout the country, but such as have qualified by regular study, and have been examined and allowed by the legal authority so to do.

EMPIRICS, OR QUACKS.—While persons, who have purchased diplomas from Scotland or elsewhere, without study, are suffered to practise as physicians or surgeons, in every part of England, except London, Oxford, or Cambridge, it looks as if the remainder of the country were out of the jurisdiction of the legislature; and while this
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is permitted, and while a carpenter, a gingerbread-baker, an ostler, or a pedlar, shall be allowed to call himself doctor or surgeon, even in the metropolis, and by the glare of a fine carriage, the pageantry of his liveries, fictitious advertisements, the inspection of urine, or other conjuration, to delude and destroy the credulous and the unwary, it will be folly to expect any confidence in, or liberality towards, those regularly educated in the profession; who, however, have been legally protected, as well as the public in most countries of Europe, except our own, where those pests of society, quack doctors, or quack surgeons, are prohibited under severe penalties, and even under the infliction of corporal punishment.

If a man should make any discovery in medicine, likely to be useful to the country, let him make it known to the College of Physicians, or Corporation of Surgeons; and, on their deliberate trial and report in its favour, let him be rewarded by the legislature, and the remedy be made public, or prepared and sold at the public elaboratory in every county-town, for the general advantage.

PHIALS.—The tax on phials is an object deserving legislative attention, for when it is considered that a half pint phial now costs the apothecary 3d. and that a poor person can never so ill afford to pay a tax, as when visited by sickness; it is presumed, allowing for breakage and bad debts, the apothecary, (a character already much oppressed) must be considered as hardly dealt by; and that its place might be supplied by some less grievous impost, and which would less injure the poor.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS.—The physicians and surgeons of every county hospital throughout England, should deliver lectures, not only on every branch of the healing art; but also on general chemistry, botany, and experimental philosophy, for the use of those engaged in agriculture or the arts; so that a man of fortune, wishing to bring up his son to agriculture, might easily have him experimentally instructed in such parts of chemistry, botany, mechanics, &c. as a liberal education would require; and that without sending him to the metropolis, where his morals may often be corrupted, rather than his mind informed. In every county hospital the veterinary art should also be taught.

taught. By the dissection of brutes, facts useful to the knowledge of human anatomy may be obtained; and when it is considered, that distempers amongst cattle have at different times rendered provisions dear and unwholesome, and greatly distressed the country; and also that both neat cattle, and that noble animal, the horse, are still, in most parts of the country, intrusted to the care of an ignorant blacksmith, who either gives turmerick, diapente, and such useless trash, for every disease, and uses green ointment, composed of verdgrease, &c. for every external wound; or, resorting to more active remedies, of which he knows not the use, creates a new disease instead of relieving the old one. We should, from these considerations, be induced to hope, that the time is not far distant, when those who prescribe for the diseases, or repair the injuries done to the human body, will also do the like for the brute creation; or at least prescribe medicines, and superintend the operator; and that a Pharmacopæia for cattle will soon be formed, and revised at short intervals, on a plan similar to those of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

These establishments being for the gene-

ral good, might be supported by a county-rate, which, with voluntary subscriptions, and the fees for examinations, might be laid out in forming a public library in every county-town, of books on all subjects of natural knowledge, with complete apparatus for lectures on all the branches of experimental philosophy; and the physicians and surgeons should have such liberal salaries, as would engage men of the first talents, and enable them to act impartially and usefully.

Public Hospitals, particularly in a crowded metropolis, it is well known, are not favourable to the cure of diseases; but as vice, poverty, and disease, will ever abound in such places, and many of the most wretched having no parish to which they can resort, hospitals become indispensable in such situations; and in county-towns, they serve as a receptacle for such poor as must undergo the more hazardous operations; and might be made the seats of general science, and become the means of diffusing useful knowledge amongst both sexes, throughout every part of the country.

DISPENSARIES AND POOR HOUSES.—Instead of Dispensaries being confined to the metropolis, or a county-town, they should
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(while so many are suffered to exist in poverty) be made general throughout the country; but instead of a house being hired for the purpose, at a great expence, the house of one or of all the apothecaries in every parish should be appointed for the purpose, where those who are allowed to prescribe and operate, be they physicians, surgeons, or apothecaries, should attend at stated times daily; and all who were confined to their beds, should be visited at their own houses; the apothecary in all cases furnishing the remedies. The expences attending these institutions might be defrayed by a parish-rate, and voluntary subscriptions from the wealthy; and if, on the report of the gentlemen, who attended the sick, stating the nature of the disease, situation in life, number of children, &c. of the afflicted person, by filling up a printed particular, such pecuniary assistance as the case should require were given, and its application attended to, the necessity for parish poor-houses would in a great measure be done away; and from my own observation, having attended the sick poor in one for several years, I am of opinion, that the sooner such institutions were done away altogether, the

more advantageous for every parish. There are very few, except the aged and blind, but would, with proper municipal regulations, support themselves, except when visited by sickness; when, instead of immediate medical or surgical aid, and a small sum of money properly laid out for them, the poor persons are sent into the parish workhouse, where nothing but vice and sloth are generally to be found; and having once lost the dependance on themselves, and perhaps no longer possessed of a habitation, they too often resign themselves to sloth and despair, and generally become inhabitants of the poor-house for the remainder of their lives.

The Quakers, it has always been remarked, never had any visible poor. I have heard Dr. Lettsom attribute this chiefly to their never having had a poor-house till of late; and the doctor, at the same time, expressed regret that ever their present one at Islington was built. The money expended in supporting parish poor-houses, I am of opinion, if judiciously applied for the poor, at their own or friends houses, would generally go much farther, and the poor obtain greater relief; and when cured, would again, with a little pecuniary aid, become useful members

members of society; particularly if medical aid were in all cases readily obtained in the beginning of the disease; and, I presume, it will be allowed that no poor person, of whatever condition, should be suffered to languish or die without, in any country which is considered as civilized.

In this city, a plan has lately been adopted on a large scale, for making soup according to Count Rumford's plan, (whose publication on the subject may be bought for a trifle) for serving the poor. The soup is made chiefly of roots and herbs, with very little meat, at a very cheap rate. A ticket given to a poor person, which costs the donor only 1d. or 2d. entitles him to a quart of good broth or soup, which serves him for a wholesome meal. Whether some plan of this kind, to furnish food, and also clothing, on some cheap regulation, for the poor, instead of money, (which is often ill laid out) would not be useful in every parish, I leave to the consideration of those to whom the care of the poor more immediately belongs.

The apothecary, furnishing medicines to the parish poor, should of course be liberally paid; and why those who practise as physicians or surgeons to public institutions,

should, in many cases, have no reward for their services, or such only as arises in fees from their pupils, I am at a loss to conjecture. I have known near two thousand pounds spent by two gentlemen in a contest for the office of surgeon to a dispensary; and a few weeks since a worthy man is said to have lost his life from the fatigue of canvassing for a similar office.

Do the clergy or the gentlemen of the law do business for nothing? Is the healing art then less necessary, or less honourable? That it is less necessary, none, I trust, will advance; and if less honourable, it can only arise from want of proper legislative regulation. Poor married women, who could not afford to pay a midwife, should be attended at the parish expence by a woman, and in dangerous cases by a doctor or surgeon. This would afford a source of practice for the young women who were studying the art, and for those who wished to acquire experience.

To prevent abuses on the parish by objects not really distressed, a registry of persons relieved with medical assistance or money, might be kept, a certificate required, to obtain

tain relief, or any other mode might be adopted to answer that end.

These regulations can only apply to such poor who suffer bodily injury, or are afflicted with sickness; or poor women in childbirth; but as many of both sexes, in large towns particularly, are destitute and friendless, through various causes, who could rescue themselves from their miserable situations, provided the means of effectually exerting their industry were provided; such should, in all possible cases, be furnished with work, tools, &c. adapted to their ages and capacities, whereby parishes would be relieved from heavy burdens, and thousands preserved, or rescued from vice and wretchedness.

The poor being attended at the house of an apothecary, near their residence, or visited daily at their own houses by a physician or surgeon, at the charge of the parish, would by no means do away the advantages of charity from the humane and affluent; each might subscribe to an adjoining apothecary, on terms similar to what is now done to a dispensary; and a fund of the donations of the charitable might also be established for finding a nurse, providing proper

per food, clothing, &c. for such poor as the professional gentlemen attending might consider proper objects. By these means their charity would go much farther, and afford more speedy and effectual relief, than by a dispensary conducted at a great expence, in a house rented for the purpose, with a resident apothecary, &c. and often at a great distance from the objects to be relieved.

PRISONS.—While on the subject of poor-houses, I cannot omit a few observations on public prisons (which having been, as I am told, wholly overlooked by a magistrate who has lately wrote avowedly to point out errors, and propose their remedies in the city police) I presume may not be useless, particularly as they arise from observation, having had several city prisons for many years under my care. The Duke de Liancourt's pamphlet on this subject, sold by Darton and Harvey, for sixpence, well deserves the perusal of all concerned in the regulation of prisons; it describes the economy of the prison of Philadelphia, where the great axiom has been, *'that the end proposed in punishment ought to be the correction*
of

of the guilty, and should include the means of amendment.'

There are in this prison cells for solitary confinement; but the circumstance I wish most to notice is, that trades and employments, of different kinds, adapted to both sexes, are carried on under constant inspection: the prisoner works for his board and clothing, and the hire or purchase of his working tools, while in prison; is also obliged to earn enough to discharge such fine as is imposed by his sentence; for a sum of money to clothe himself; buy proper tools for his business; pay the expences of his prosecution; and to enable him to begin life on his quitting the prison; till when, he cannot in any case be discharged. In London, on the contrary, the constables being allowed a fee for each poor creature they take up, frequently bring in to a prison ten or a dozen unfortunate females in an evening: the following morning the magistrate generally commits them to Bridewell for a few weeks; when, instead of being employed in some useful manufacture, or other work which they are capable of performing, cured of their diseases, decently clothed, and learnt some useful trade

trade or business, and having earned a sum of money, by their own industry, to begin life anew, on being released from confinement; these poor creatures are, on the contrary, discharged, when their term expires, as destitute of friends and money as when admitted, to begin the same night their former mode of living, having no other resource; which is certainly only insulting distress. But this has been enquired into, and, in a great measure, removed by the present sheriffs. Their attention and humanity, assisted by the court of aldermen, will, I have no doubt, soon carry into effect such plans for removing the present evils, and promoting such regulations and improvements in the several city prisons, as the crowded and depraved state of this overgrown city will admit; and as soon as the city finances will afford the means, it is to be hoped that such a miserable place as the Poultry Compter will no longer be suffered to remain a disgrace to the metropolis.

Should poor-houses become less wanted for the present purposes, might not they be made workhouses for reclaiming a number of those miserable females, having no parish or friends, who are nightly ensnaring

snaring our youth? And if a prisoner in Philadelphia can earn his living, clothes, &c. and also a sum of money to enable him or her to begin life in some honest occupation, and relieve the parish or county from future expence, might not the like plan produce similar effects in London?

If the majority of these hints should be carried into effect, the country gentlemen may then leave their home with comfort, in the assurance that whoever of the faculty resides near them, must of necessity have had a regular education, and therefore proper to attend an affectionate wife or a beloved child in his absence, when perhaps no physician is near; and this consideration should induce such, cheerfully, to submit to a tax in lieu of those on patent medicines, quack advertisements, and phials; from the comfort of having such a man to attend their families on a liberal and honest plan, and also to give advice in cases where his cattle should be attacked with any general distemper, or a favourite horse should require medical or surgical assistance.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE HEALING ART.

I have now considered pretty generally, the regulations under which the healing art might be practised, with greater advantage than at present. I shall now hint how, in my mind, the treatment of diseases also might be much improved. It is well known that lately the Board of Agriculture circulated surveys of each county over the kingdom, with blank leaves, to admit of additions or corrections, which every one, who perused them, was at liberty to make; and when returned, the improvements thus collected were incorporated into the work, which was reprinted for that purpose. The success of this plan warrants my advising a similar one for improving the healing art.

Suppose, then, that a system on each department, as Cullen's Practice of Physic; Winslow's Anatomy, Bell's Surgery, Hamilton's Midwifery, Macquer's Chemistry, Miller's Botany, and Kirwan's Mineralogy, from five hundred to one thousand copies of each work were circulated, either interleaved with white paper, or a blank book of similar size sent with each; suppose every member

member of the College of Physicians and Corporation of Surgeons were to have one copy of each work so interleaved ; and also that about half a dozen copies were sent to the practitioners in each county hospital, copies of the College Dispensatory, one for the surgeons, and another for the veterinary art, should also, together with Gibson's, Taplin's, or Sain Bell's Farriery, be circulated in like manner and number, with blank leaves : all these might be allowed to remain out for one year, when, being returned to the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, the useful matter collected, and the corrections suggested, might be revised and incorporated by a select body, best qualified for each department, and the whole of each classed and published as a regular system, with plates to those works that required such elucidation. By repeating this at stated periods, as once every three, five, or seven years, such a system might in time be formed on each subject, as would do honour to the country, and prove a blessing to its inhabitants and to the world. Surely agriculture, the most healthy and happy employ of man, is not more important than the healing art ; nor the professors of the lat-

ter less able or less desirous to add to its usefulness, than the Board of Agriculture have shewn themselves to be in that department.

LANGUAGE OF PHYSIC.—I presume it is understood that all the systems, I have proposed thus to circulate, are intended to be printed in the English language. Whatever the Arabians, Grecians, or Romans have done towards advancing the healing art, we are now in possession of; and if a body of physicians and surgeons were employed to translate, and class all that has been written on the healing art, in what is now to us a dead language, with comments and illustrations, the work would be both useful and curious; but after being thus in possession of all their labours, would it still be necessary for a youth, perhaps intended for an apothecary, whose office it may be only to compound medicines, to be employed several years in hard labour to attain the Latin language; or might not he have been better qualified to begin the general study of the profession, had he spent the same number of years, after a good English education, in attaining a knowledge of the French language, with that of experimental and natural philosophy; and more particularly

particularly of botany, mineralogy, and chemistry, the latter studies would certainly prove much more pleasing, and in my mind more useful. When botany shall be classed in our own tongue, and physic freed from the quackery of a dead language, by prescriptions and books being wrote in English, then will every man of a philosophic mind, or who is experimentally informed, be enabled to add his mite towards its improvement; and then may we expect to see the dispensaries of both the physicians and surgeons revised, and new ones printed, every three, five, or seven years, as discoveries shall be made; and that, instead of the physicians containing six or seven hundred articles, which the apothecary is obliged by law now to keep in his shop, we may see the number greatly reduced; and cochineal, saffron, and such like trumpery, which, however, proper for the dyer or the artist, can be of no use in medicine, when it is prescribed with an honest and useful view, expunged from the dispensary; and when ingredients for colouring medicines shall be no longer wanted, these, and many such like, must follow the fate of others still more disgust-

ing, as human scull, dog's t—d, &c. once also articles of the dispensary. That the London Pharmacopœia of 1791 should contain so many as six or seven hundred articles, for every apothecary to keep in his shop, and many of them so very insignificant, reflects no great credit on the attention of the college, or on the state of medical science in this country at that period : that most branches of experimental philosophy, and particularly pneumatic chemistry, can be taught and illustrated by experiments both ingenious and conclusive, without a critical knowledge of the dead languages, is clearly proved, in the lectures now delivering by my countryman, Mr. Varley, near Hatton Garden, whose very extensive and accurate knowledge of all the several branches of experimental philosophy has been acquired by industry and application, without such attainment. If a boy can, by spending six or even twelve months in attaining the rudiments of Latin and Greek, be enabled to trace certain technical words to their source, and improve in the knowledge of his own tongue, there can be no objection ; but as all that the dead languages contain, useful to the healing art, has been, or can be, translated
and

and illustrated, it would appear injurious to consume the principal part of the time allotted for school education, in attaining only a knowledge of the dead languages. The sciences, particularly botany, being classed and arranged in our own tongue, would enable many to pursue so pleasing and useful a study, who are at present deterred from the attempt, from want of a classical education; by which the diffusion of knowledge and happiness is prevented, and improvements in the arts very much obstructed.

RECAPITULATION.—We have now seen that, in all the principal countries of Europe, the healing art has been taught and practised, under regulations more liberal and salutary than have been adopted in our own; and when this is the case, in countries which we have always been taught to consider as far behind us in learning, riches, and industry, we should, without delay, improve upon all that has hitherto been done in any other country, by a liberal and useful legislative regulation of the practice of the healing art in our own; so as that the whole country, rich and poor, (those who have too long preyed on the public by monopoly or igno-

rance, alone excepted) may be benefited by the change.

We have seen, that in other countries, all parts have alike been considered as deserving of legislative protection, no one being suffered to prescribe or operate, without regular study, and giving proofs of his qualification, throughout the whole country; and the remedies used, also prepared under such legal regulations, as secure the sick from ignorance or sophistication; while, in our own country, any impostor, who has 10l. or 15l. to purchase a doctor's degree, can practise as a physician throughout England, even in the metropolis itself. Any one may also call himself a chemist and druggist, and prepare the most active antimonial and mercurial medicines; nay, if he chuses, he may also prescribe them under the name of an apothecary, man-midwife, &c. and if above seven miles from London, he may assume the title of surgeon also, and maim or mutilate the unwary with impunity. Such are the effects of the legislature resigning its right to judge of the country's interest, to a few individuals, who are permitted to assume the duties of parliament, and make bye-laws injurious to the whole country,

and in which the majority of their own body have not the least concern.

We have seen in other countries a regular correspondence kept up between every district and parish, as well as from the fleets and armies, whereby consultations and important advantages can be obtained, when epidemics prevail; and which allows a regular register to be made of deaths, diseases, &c. very different from the nonsense annually collected by old women in our own country.

We have seen that, in countries where it has been thought proper to allow of experts, as dentists, oculists, &c. that all such have been obliged to serve, at least, a few years to a regular surgeon, and pass an examination before obtaining a licence to practise; and on being found qualified, are even then not permitted to practise (under severe penalty) in any other branch of the art, than that which their licence expresses. Nay, so much has the life of the subject been protected in some countries, that to perform any hazardous operation, without a previous consultation, where it could have been had, would be severely punished. Should an apothecary, in those countries, dare to pre-

scribe a medicine, or perform an operation, the forfeiture of all he was possessed of, and to be sent for a galley-slave, would be the penalty; while in England, any one who chuses is suffered both to compound and prescribe medicines, and to perform hazardous operations on the human body, without either being called to submit to any examination, or having served a single day to any branch of the profession; although several sorts of mechanics are not allowed to pursue, in London, the trade they understand, even as journeymen, unless they have served a regular apprenticeship of seven years.

We have seen that, in some countries, severe penalties are inflicted on any one who shall attempt to vend any empirical medicine or remedy; while in England, this is done not only by itinerants, who travel through every part of the country, but also by great numbers, both natives and foreigners, in this metropolis; some of whom are so stupidly ignorant, as not to be able to write their own name, or perhaps even read what the credulous consider as their history of diseases; and yet is credulity suffered so far to be preyed upon, that some of these vagabonds appear in such splendor, as many

men, of great worth and good education, never can expect to attain. Indeed, so shockingly indecent are most of the falsehoods intruded on the public daily, by these impostors, that a newspaper is seldom fit to meet the eye of a female, or even for the youth of either sex to look on. If such pests to society are tolerated, for the advantages obtained by the revenue, let it no longer be said, that however burthensome our present taxes may be, we would not rather submit to some fresh impost, than that thousands of our people should fall a sacrifice to the ignorance of quacks and impostors; and that the morals of our youth should be daily debauched by reading their obscene advertisements.

We have seen, that in some countries regular physicians and surgeons are paid by the government, and in others by each parish, to attend all persons who require medical or surgical advice, throughout the country, daily at the shop of an apothecary in every district, and such as require it at their own houses; the apothecary, in all cases, furnishing the remedies prescribed gratis to the poor, at the charge of the parish or of government: and that all poor women are

attended, when in labour, at their own houses also, at the expence of government or the parish; while, in our own country, dispensaries are all supported by the subscription of individuals only, often with a view to accommodate their own servants or workmen; so that the poor and friendless often languish, till the disease is too far gone to admit of cure; or else rely on the charitable aid of some neighbouring apothecary. Indeed, the distance of a dispensary is often so great, and the numerous attendance frequently causing such loss of time, that many, who are much in want of all their small pittance, often prefer paying a portion of that to an apothecary, rather than apply to a distant dispensary, at a stated hour, three times a week: while others, having no friend who subscribes to a dispensary, and not belonging to the parish, are, when attacked by sickness, in a situation too wretched to be described; and such frequently are ordered to some one of the city prisons, though guilty of no crime, but that of poverty.

We have seen that, in most countries, colleges and hospitals for public instruction are liberally supported, and the professors paid by the government, pupils attending gratis; and

and that public libraries, with museums annexed, are gratuitously resorted to by students, and the public. Public gardens, for the improvement of botany and agriculture, with teachers paid by the government, are institutions which many European countries have also thought proper to establish. That the like establishments, adjoining the places of instruction, under regulations admitting of as free access as their preservation would allow, would add to the happiness and wealth of our own country, none will dispute.

I have said, that museums and botanic gardens should be as near the places of instruction as possible, and this I consider one great advantage of a public college; for the teachers being dispersed in every part of this town, which is sufficiently crowded and dirty in winter, is an inconvenience which I have myself experienced, and which all students must find to consume much of their time.

We have seen, that in some countries the business of the public hospitals is conducted under the most strict and beneficial regulations: physicians and surgeons being obliged to attend twice a day, and prescribe in consultation; and the junior surgeons and
pupils,

pupils, not only obliged to see all medicines made up, and given to the patients, but also bound constantly to reside in the hospital, under the terror of a fine, or of corporal punishment, in case of absence without leave. That many of the cases, in our hospitals, are of a nature so dangerous, as to require every aid which consultations and very frequent attendance can give, none will deny: and the very frequent accidents which are brought in, requiring operations immediately to be performed, or which, by being delayed, must prove ineffectual, fully shew the necessity of one or more gentlemen of mature age and experience, always residing in the house, not as pupils, but with such a salary as should require constant and uniform attendance.

We have seen, that in some countries teachers are appointed and paid by the government, for instructing females in the practice of midwifery; who, however, are not suffered to practise, without first passing a public examination, and obtaining a licence; and that apothecaries are also required to be examined, before they can obtain a licence to practise; and that in some countries a limited number only are allowed;

ed; while in England, instead of public institutions, for instructing females in an art so peculiarly proper to be practised only by their sex, the business is almost wholly in the hands of men, who attend on the most common occasions. And as to the apothecary in England, any person that chuses may assume the title, and prescribe either in town or country.

We have seen, that in one country a physician and surgeon are elected to attend all the inhabitants of each district, and are paid annually by a general contribution. This plan, if not for the more opulent inhabitants of our own country, would be an useful regulation for persons in moderate circumstances, who could not afford frequent fees to a physician or surgeon, but who are superior to the charity of an hospital, &c. All the benefit societies, in the country, are thus attended by the year, by a general practitioner; and generally the poor also, who are not in a parish workhouse.

I have now given, pretty fully, my ideas how the practice of the healing art might be much improved, for the general advantage; and that legislative regulation is much wanted, I trust every one will allow; but should
parliament

parliament not take up the subject, even after a general petition from the faculty, which, however, I should be sorry to suppose, then would I advise all the apothecaries in the kingdom to do, what the committee of the Pharmaceutical Association ought to have done; instead of applying to parliament, if a partial regulation only was their aim, viz. To appoint a committee in London, and also in each county-town, to meet deputations from the wholesale druggists, in a friendly and gentlemanly manner. They should then state the hardships they labour under, by the druggists making up prescriptions, and retailing medicines, while themselves are obliged by law to keep their shops well furnished with a vast number of articles, many of which are perishable, and some, at the present time, excessively expensive; and also each to keep an assistant, properly qualified, with an errand boy always in readiness for emergencies; which, however small his practice, ought to be done.

The druggists would then deliberate on an answer, which would either be, that they saw the complaints reasonable, and would agree to decline making up any kind of prescriptions, or retailing any drugs or chemicals;

cals; that they were convinced of the hardship, but could afford no relief: or that they should continue to make medicines, sell retail, and even to prescribe; bidding defiance to the application. In the latter cases, the apothecaries would have the remedy in their own hands, which they should then pursue, viz. to agree, under a penalty, not to deal with any druggist or chemist who refused to comply with their application; and even to become wholesale chemists and druggists themselves, by establishing in London, and in every county-town, under the inspection of a regular chemist, an elaboratory and a drug-warehouse, as a joint stock; each apothecary investing a proportion of the capital, agreeable to his inclination. Or, if this would be illegal, then a small number might do the like, for serving each county. If the Pharmaceutical Committee had been less disunited, and less intemperate, such an application at that time, would, I doubt not, have obtained from the druggists all that the association then desired; for such druggists, as I then consulted, would readily have agreed to a general regulation, on liberal and fair terms. Indeed, their interests would have suffered less than at first sight would appear,

appear, as they then might retire to less expensive situations, and keep warehouses instead of shops, and would be paid more regularly, as the apothecaries became more respectable.

The druggists deserve no blame for obtaining the business of making up prescriptions. The public were driven away from the apothecary, by his charging for medicines, in the prescribing of which he had no concern, the same as if his advice had been given: if the apothecary did not discriminate, the public would. That other branches of the profession would still have had just cause of complaint, none will deny. General relief and public advantage can only be obtained by a wise and liberal act of parliament, leaving nothing to the discretion of future bye-laws, to be made by the party whose interest is often directly contrary to the public advantage.

Remember, man, "the Universal Cause
 "Acts not by partial, but by gen'ral laws,"
 And makes what happiness we justly call,
 Subsist, not in the good of one, but all.

FINIS.

